

1500

Tuesday January 2 1996

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Albania L 200	Hungary F 200	Poland Z 20
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Australia AS 28	Indonesia ID 100	Qatar QR 8.50
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Czech Republic KC 45	Latvia L 100	Sweden S 100
Denmark DK 15	Lithuania US 1.50	Switzerland SF 3
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Major in crisis talks

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

JOHAN Major interrupted his holiday break at Chequers yesterday to talk to his closest Cabinet colleagues about the deepening crisis within the Conservative Party, which could lead to an early general election.

Among those he consulted was Brian Mawhinney, party chairman, who is on holiday in America with his family but who has been asked for regular briefings on the situation caused by the defection of Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats. The next meeting of the Cabinet is not due until Thursday week — two days after Parliament returns — but he may summon key colleagues earlier if the in-fighting sparked by her defection gets even further out of hand.

Senior Tories last night conceded that Mr Major could be leading a minority government by the summer, as the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, reopened the divisions within the Conservatives by claiming it was "incredible" to suggest the party had lurched to the right.

In the wake of Ms Nicholson's defection, senior right-wing figures, including the former party chairman Lord Tebbit and failed leadership contender John Redwood, urged Mr Major to carry on until May 1997, but admitted that he could soon be without a majority.

Senior sources said this situation could come as early as the summer, with two by-elections pending and forecasts predicting disastrous results in the May local elections.

Both Lord Tebbit and Mr Redwood said the Government should continue to govern as long as it could win a confidence vote. Mr Major has already stressed that he will not be forced into an early election and that he would not "cut and run" in the face of political difficulties.

Ms Nicholson, whose defection leaves the Government facing a majority of just one after the two forthcoming by-elections, had said that the Conservative Party's lurch to the right — particularly on Europe — had been one of the reasons why she decided to jump ship.

But yesterday Mr Portillo insisted on BBC radio that it was "very silly" to say that the party has tilted to the right — that is completely incredible.

He added: "I think the party

is probably much the same. We have a broad breadth of opinion within the party."

But leading figures on the Tory left immediately responded by saying that Mr Portillo was only exacerbating tensions in the party just as unity was needed to get over the defection of two backbenchers in three months.

Yesterday Peter Temple-Morris, MP for Leominster, who leads a recently launched pro-Europe and one-nation faction of Tory backbenchers, said Mr Portillo represented "the very worrying tilt to the right about which many of us are concerned."

He added: "I don't think that the torrent of personal abuse we are hearing against Emma Nicholson is exactly helping."

The former prime minister, Sir Edward Heath, issued a rebuke to Mr Portillo and called for an end to recriminations. "What I regret is that members of the Cabinet should be indulging in this sort of language and this approach," he said. But Mr Redwood urged Mr Major to adopt more right-wing policies in order to try to claw back Labour's 30 per cent lead in the polls.

With Parliament due to resume next Tuesday, Mr Major has been concentrating his efforts on rallying grass-roots supporters, by stressing his commitment to one-nation Conservatism and emphasising the Government's economic achievements.

The Ulster Unionists have confirmed that they will not seek to bring down the Government by voting against it, provided that the Government refuses to compromise in its demands for the IRA to begin disarmament before Sinn Fein can join all-party talks.

But they were yesterday warned by the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, not to expect special treatment in return for their pledge.

He insisted that the even-handed approach to the peace process in Ulster would continue despite the reduction in the Government's majority brought about by Ms Nicholson's defection.

The shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, said the public could see for themselves that the Government was adopting a right-wing agenda designed for purely party political reasons.

"It is not a question of John Major himself being right-wing. It is that we have a weak prime minister who is running before the most vocal wing of his party," he said.

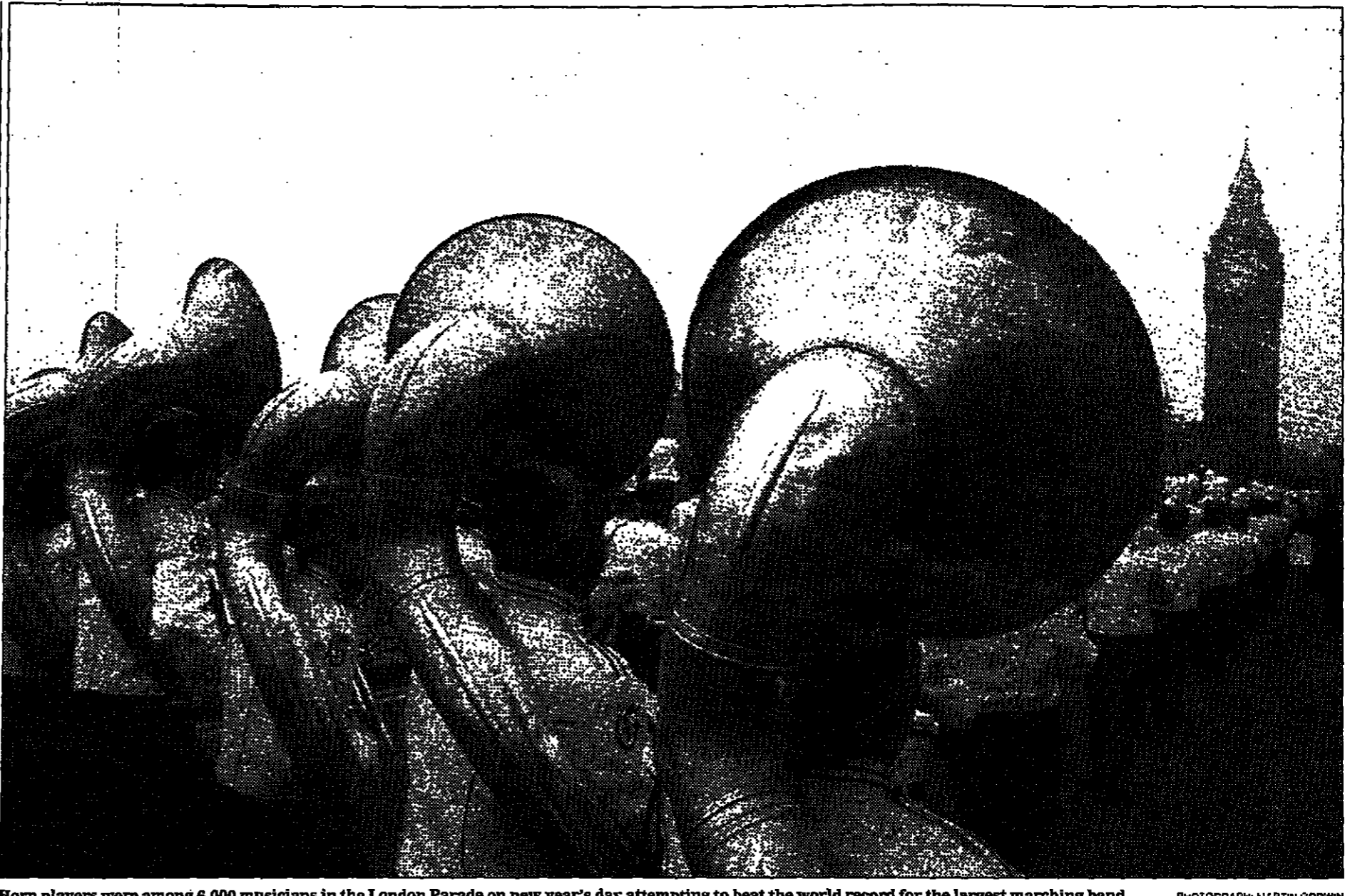
Portillo — then and now

'The foreign and defence policies of this country will not be dictated to us by a majority of a council of ministers'

Michael Portillo, Tory Conference

'It is very silly to say that the party has tilted to the right — that is completely incredible'

Michael Portillo, January 1 1996



Horn players were among 6,000 musicians in the London Parade on new year's day attempting to beat the world record for the largest marching band. PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN GUDWIN

Armed gang murder good Samaritan



Evon Berry... tried to stop street robbery

Four 'dangerous' men on the run after street shooting incident

Geoffrey Gibbs

POLICE were last night hunting an armed gang who shot dead one man and injured two others who intervened to prevent what appears to have been an attempted street robbery in the St Paul's area of Bristol.

The gang, who were reported to have sped off in a car after the incident, are said to be "armed and dangerous" and police warned members of the public not to approach them. Detectives said they were looking for four black men.

The dead man was named last night as Jamaican-born Evon "Banga" Berry, aged 37, of Montpellier, Bristol, who was caretaker of the Malcolm X community centre in St Paul's. He was married, with three daughters aged 17, 15 and 11.

Mr Berry was noted for helping out in the annual St Paul's carnival, where he made wood carvings for children to carry. One local man, who declined to be named, said last night: "Everyone would say this incident was typical of 'Banga'. If he saw someone in trouble, he would try to help."

His widow, Linda, said: "He was a lovely man, a big, gentle person who would not hurt anybody."

Detectives have been carrying out house-to-house inquiries in the area and yesterday interviewed the intended robbery victim at the city's Trinity Road police station.

Police said Mr Berry and the two other men, who were brothers, saw the intended victim being pistol-whipped. Mr Berry and the others were told to "mind their own business".

But as they continued to protest they were threatened and gunshots were fired. As they moved backwards, their

hands in the air, a man ran forward and shots rang out.

Officers were called to the area at 7am yesterday after reports of an argument and gunshots at the junction of Sussex Place and Ashleigh Road in the heart of St Paul's.

Mr Berry was found dead at the scene with a single gunshot wound to the head. He had staggered to nearby Grosvenor Road before collapsing outside a taxi office.

The brothers, aged 36 and 38, were found injured, one with a gunshot wound to his side, the other with head injuries caused when he was pistol-whipped to the ground.

The men, both from the locality, were last night under armed guard in hospital in Bristol.

The man with gunshot wounds was said to be in a "serious but not life-threatening" condition. His brother's head injuries are not thought to be serious. Neither man wished to be named.

A senior police officer said the mugged man had been robbed of a gold necklace, but obviously the gang were intent on more. The man, who

is in his 30s, was only slightly hurt. Last night, he was well enough to return to his home in Southampton. He has declined to be named.

Although the murder took place in a part of the city with a history of drug-related crime, a spokesman for Avon and Somerset police stressed that there was no evidence to suggest the shooting was linked to drugs dealings.

There have been two other shootings in the area in the past month, both thought to be drug-related.

The spokesman added: "The wanted men are armed and dangerous. They must not be approached. But police should be informed immediately if they are sighted."

Death in an urban badland, page 3

Black Watch troops 'joined triad'

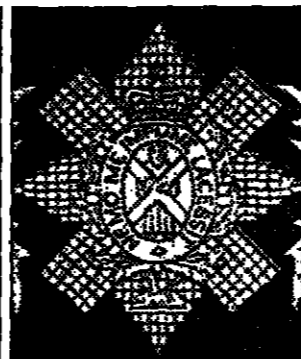
Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong and John Mullin

SOLDIERS from the Black Watch, whose colonel-in-chief is the Queen Mother, were said yesterday to have become embroiled in the notorious Chinese triads in Hong Kong, where the regiment served until August 1994.

The Ministry of Defence was last night checking the reports, which appeared in the Hong Kong-based Eastern Express newspaper.

At least a dozen members of the Black Watch, the Royal Highland Regiment, were said to have taken initiation oaths in Cantonese, mastered secret hand signals and assumed low-rank positions in the Sun Yee On triad.

The rank they are said to have held was "49", part of a



complex numerological code designating criminal hierarchies dating back to the 17th century. Each new gang member is required to make 36 loyalty oaths — the product of the numbers making up the rank's name.

British troops are alleged to have come into contact with

triads while working as freelance bouncers in the bars and nightclubs of Wanchai, home of the fictional 1950s prostitute Suzie Wong, and still a favourite destination for visiting servicemen.

A police source said: "They learned the oaths, the verses and went through the full initiation ceremony."

The Sun Yee On is probably the largest of some 50 triad gangs operating in Hong Kong. Triad membership is illegal and punishable by up to 15 years' imprisonment.

Britain has cut its armed forces in Hong Kong in the past decade from nearly 13,000 to about 3,000. The Black Watch is due to go back next year for a final tour that will end with the arrival of the People's Liberation Army at midnight on June 30 1997.

Triad secret societies trace their origins to the collapse of the Ming Dynasty in 1644, when non-Chinese Manchurian invaders founded the Qing.

Initially patriotic rather than criminal, such groups quickly turned from politics to extortion while retaining much of the original ritual and lore. Many nightclubs, mah-jong gaming parlours and bars in Hong Kong pay protection.

The Ministry of Defence said last night it was unaware of any Black Watch soldiers returning to Hong Kong to give evidence in any trial, although it was aware that such rumours had been sweeping the colony.

The Black Watch, founded in 1725, was threatened with a merger four years ago as part of the MOD's plans to reduce the number of infantry battalions. The Queen Mother has been its colonel-in-chief since 1987.

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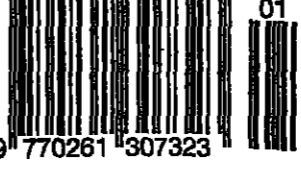
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Sketch

In the money and well out of sight



Stephen Bates

ANYONE going to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg yesterday in the hope of watching its prosperous citizens spending the highest per capita incomes in the world was in for a sad let-down. Luxembourg was, to all intents and purposes, closed.

The World Bank has decided that the Luxembourg-geoids (and they are very bourgeois) have the highest average incomes in the world: nearly \$40,000 (\$25,544) a head, way ahead of Japan and the US.

Indeed Luxembourg is 168 countries ahead of Mozambique, the world's least prosperous nation, whose citizens have an average annual income of just \$80 (£51), or the average cost of a half-decent meal for two in a little restaurant on Luxembourg's boulevard Franklin Roosevelt.

Book review

Catalogue sells a spiv's decade

Dan Glaister

Peter York's Eighties

Peter York and Charles Jennings

PETER YORK is a man with a mission. There he is, leaning forward, peering archly from the cover of his latest book: this man has something to tell us. Perhaps, even, to tell us. The man who told us about Sloanes with his Sloane Ranger Handbook, the man who sold us stylish aperçus in the pages of Harpers & Queen, the man who gave us Style Wars has returned, to tell us about exactly the same things as before: the Eighties.

What a wheeze! The Eighties, the decade everyone is embarrassed to admit, but which was a golden age for many, including Peter York. New Romantic revivals. Sounds of the Eighties on TV, dredged up, invested with some gravitas, and with a snap of the braces you see him as we remember him: crisp shirt, polka-dot tie, red braces, tightly coiffed, head hair. The man looks as if he went into a Chelsea wine bar in 1987 and has stumbled out unaware that it is 1996.

York's decade is divided into six charmingly alliterative chapters: Pioneers, Paradise, Property, Plutocrats, Pushers and Post-Eighties. The style is ad-speak, or perhaps tele-speak. This is, after all, the book of the series, and in the best tradition of Eighties instant publishing it has

Big Apple rot slows down as crime rate drops drastically

IN a dramatic acceleration of a four-year trend, New York City's crime rate has registered its steepest drop in 23 years, despite the killing of five people at a Bronx shoe store last month.

Of course, it was a bank holiday in Luxembourg, the country which has based its prosperity on banking and discretion. It is here where the accountants of Europe advise their clients to hide their funds, safe from prying domestic tax authorities. You don't even need to use your own name. Yesterday the banks along the Boulevard Royal were all shuttered, marble halls gleaming but deserted.

Hubert Hoffmann and his wife Monika, walking their white poodle through the shopping centre of the upper city, were mildly surprised to be classed among the most prosperous citizens in the world. "We do all right, but I don't think we are special," said Hubert, a retired car worker, originally from Germany. "Everything is very expensive here, so we need a lot of money."

Luxembourg retains a slightly Ruritanian air, with its turreted ducal palace, its cobbled squares and spiky church spires. If there are beggars, as there are in most European cities these days, they were not out yesterday in the bitter cold: the only youth to be seen crouching in a doorway turned out to be an Italian student waiting for a friend.

Of course, the World Bank's per capita income reckoning is bogus: it is distorted by all the income from all those banks, and it takes no account of the high proportion of foreign commuters who come into Luxembourg each day, because their earnings go abroad: 15 miles west, south or east.

A quarter of the workforce comes in across the borders each day, half of all the workers in the duchy are foreigners, and that figure rises to two-thirds in the private sector. The bankers of Europe have found it more economical to move their employees to Luxembourg than to keep them in cities like Brussels, where taxes are higher. Luxembourg is proud to have created 18,000 new jobs since 1991, but only a thousand of those have gone to locals.

By other reckonings, Luxembourg is only the 13th richest region in Europe and its citizens are third in purchasing power after Australia and Canada. You can do anything with figures.

the feel of a rush job: Leaving aside the errors - repetitions, omissions - this is writing to be read aloud: ungrammatical, rhetorical, italicised.

Not that it doesn't work. Lie back and let the words splash over you. "Pick a decade, not just any decade," it starts. York recently told an interviewer that "I used to read a lot of books. Now, I mean, I just get things..."

Peter York's Eighties, accordingly, reads like a catalogue. Pioneers? Ah, yes, there is Sherman, Joseph, Thatcher, Perry, Bowie, Rusty Egan... It's like soap opera: familiar cast, familiar plot, it's all so easy.

But what does York do with all this observation? He delivers a series of essays, but they are of the "Self Expression and the Art of Paperbanging" but is there anything else going, on other than the revelation that the Eighties grew out of the Seventies? York's Eighties is a fulfilment of the decade's own myth: boom, adventure, technology, opportunity, or as York would say, opportunity. The other Eighties, the spiv Eighties, hiding around the corner, waiting to mug you and break them, prove it. "Go on then, prove it!" Proof, however, is too messy. It would spoil the packaging.

Peter York's Eighties is published by BBC Books, £12.99. The TV series starts Saturday, BBC2, 9.30pm

Other big cities, like Houston and San Diego, have registered similar declines. However, in the Parkchester district of New York's Bronx, there is a new anxiety - exploding tolls. Two people have filed a law suit claiming that when they flushed their toilets the bowls ruptured, spraying them with pieces of porcelain. - New York Times.

TORIES IN TURMOIL: Moderates alienated by moves appease potentially rebellious members



Michael Portillo's tub-thumping Conference speech whipped up nationalist sentiment PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

Right deepens party rifts

Rebecca Smithers examines how fundamental areas of policy have sharply changed direction over the past year

ALTHOUGH Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, yesterday vehemently denied that the Conservatives were increasingly lurching to the right - one of the main reasons Emma Nicholson gave for defecting - senior Tories privately concede that policies on Europe, welfare, education and immigration have tilted in that direction over the last 13 months.

While John Major had already bowed to pressure from Eurosceptics, for example, it was Mr Portillo's tub-thumping speech at the Conservative conference in October that shamelessly whipped up nationalist sentiment on the right of the party, shocking more moderate members.

Quarter-century fails to wipe out memories of Ibrox's dark day

John Mullin talks to survivors

THERE were more than 80,000 of them, off to celebrate New Year in the cauldron of an Old Firm derby 25 years ago. Rangers versus Celtic, and Glasgow's preferred method of washing away another Hogmanay hangover. Sixty-six of them were never to return home.

It was the worst soccer disaster in British history, exceeded 18 years later when 96 Liverpool fans were crushed at Hillsborough, the lessons unlearned. January 2, 1971 will be forever one of Glasgow's darkest days, and many long bore the mental, as well as the physical, injuries. The Fatal Accident Inquiry criticised Rangers' directors, who had ignored two earlier deaths on the same stairway 13, to the north-east of the ground. The Safety at Sports Grounds Act followed north of the border in 1975 after Lord Wheatley's report on the tragedy, but Rangers went much further. Ibrox, now with a capacity of 44,000, was the first large stadium in Britain to be rebuilt virtually from scratch, with safety the prime consideration. Like tomorrow's game, at Celtic's Parkhead, the derby was a table-topping clash. It was tight, but in the final minute, Jimmy Johnstone put Celtic ahead. Rangers fans streamed for the exits.

Dark days ahead

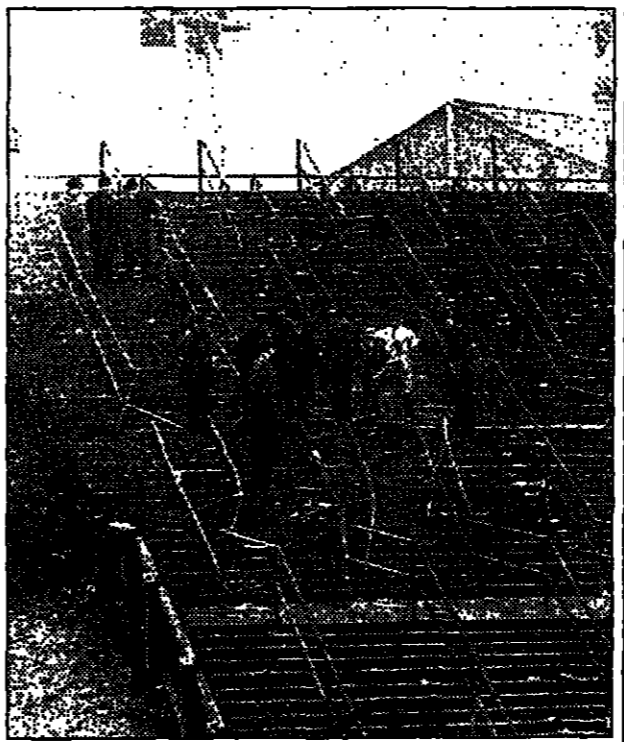
The pitfalls facing John Major

Calendar of events for the Conservative Party from January to November, including by-elections, key staff departures, and European issues.

than for the benefit of the country. Education: Policy has changed radically since John Major installed Gillian Shephard 18 months ago to restore some kind of order after what some ministers call "the idiocies" of John Patten.

But it soon became clear to Mr Major that the Conservatives had to produce new, distinctive policies to underline their theme of choice in education. At the centre of the reforms were nursery vouchers, making all schools self-governing, opting out initially for church schools, and doubling the assisted places scheme.

The changes - apparently foisted upon Mrs Shephard with little discussion - soon ran into problems. The churches said the fast-track route to opting out was unacceptable, while only four schools said they would participate in a pilot to test the new nursery vouchers, and



Officials examine the collapsed barriers at stairway 13

Matt Reid was 19, and took his father, who rarely went, as a treat. "I was so chuffed when I managed to get him a ticket for the Old Firm match," he said. "His dad died, and Matt never went to a football match for more than 20 years. "Even now I still look across to the part where it happened, and the memories come flooding back." He will be at Parkhead tomorrow. "Football will be secondary in my thoughts, but I feel it is important to go along and pay my respects to all those - like my father - who lost their lives."

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wing of the party claimed their first legislative scalp when they forced the Government to shelve a new bill on domestic violence. The Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill, which would have given greater protection to victims of domestic violence and child abuse, was on the verge of becoming law with all-party approval when it was sidelined in November by nine rightwing backbenchers who claimed it would weaken the status of marriage. The measures were revived in the new Family Law Bill, through changes acknowledging that living together is not as strong a commitment as marriage.

Health: Behind the scenes, there are concerns about what Labour describes as the creeping "privatisation" of the National Health Service, through rationing of some treatments. Nevertheless, Mr Portillo, long seen as a standard-bearer for the Tory right, insisted yesterday it was "complete nonsense" to believe that the Tories were now pursuing a hardline agenda.

"There were many people who could object to Mrs Thatcher because they thought she was strident or ideological, who could not possibly have those objections" to Mr Major who is so palpably moderate and all-embracing in the way he wishes to run the party," he said on BBC Radio 4.

Mr Portillo raised tensions further, by describing Miss Nicholson as a woman with a "history of disloyalty" who had at one time been only too happy to lend enthusiastic support to the rightwing policies of Mrs Thatcher. But the divisions between Tory right and left have been clearly exposed by Miss Nicholson's defection, prompting many of her former leftwing colleagues to voice their unhappiness at the shift away from moderate policies.

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Ailing Saudi king hands reins to heir

David Hirst in Beirut

KING FAHD yesterday handed over the effective government of Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter and a mainstay of Western policies in the Middle East, to his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah.

The ailing monarch, aged 74, who suffered a debilitating stroke in November, has not formally abdicated. But the signs are that he has transferred power permanently to his heir apparent.

The succession — the fifth since the kingdom's founder, Abdul Aziz, died in 1932 — was always expected to be a difficult one. The laconic announcement of what purports to be a provisional transfer of authority does not inspire confidence that it has been smoothly accomplished.

On the contrary, its being prompted by King Fahd's illness rather than his death, and the possibility of his recovery, make it problematic. Not only are there rivalries within the House of Saud, but the regime is under challenge.

Among its problems are the growth of an Islamist opposition movement; a middle class seeking to break the prince's monopoly on decision-making, cuts in the welfare system; high-level corruption; and foreign policies widely seen as subservient to the economic and political interests of the United States.

Prince Abdullah, who is known to favour less blatantly pro-American policies and more Arab self-reliance, will, at least, bring about a change of style and emphasis. The question is whether he may collide with those within the ruling family — notably the Sudairi clan to which King Fahd belongs — who want to keep the kingdom on its present course.

In his royal decree, King Fahd told the Crown Prince: "Because of Your Highness's good character... we entrust you... to take over management of government affairs while we enjoy rest and recuperation." Prince Abdullah in turn pledged his allegiance to King Fahd.

The king was admitted to hospital in November. According to US medical sources, he was overweight, diabetic and arthritic, and had suffered a severe stroke.

The Saudi opposition claims he never recovered his speech and that pictures of him on television, after his release from hospital, were fake.

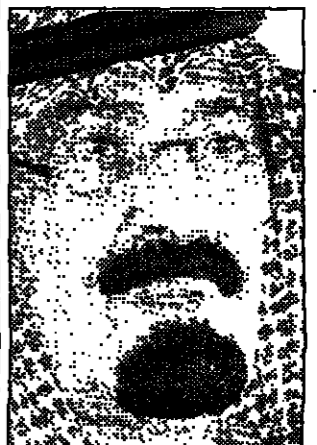
The House of Saud, composed of several thousand descendants of Abdul Aziz, traditionally rallies behind any new ruler, whose choice is assured in advance. But that choice could be contentious this time because of constitutional changes King Fahd introduced in 1992.

The succession previously went to the most senior of Abdul Aziz's sons — of whom there were 45 recorded ones, from 22 wives. King Fahd opened it up to the grandsons. Now, the heir apparent should be the most "suitable" of Abdul Aziz's descendants. Although the monarch chooses his own successor, the new provision throws the issue open to debate — and power struggles.

The "Sudairi Seven" — offspring of Abdul Aziz's reputedly favourite wife — include such powerful figures as the defence minister, Prince Sultan, the interior minister, Prince Nayif, and the governor of Riyadh, Prince Salman. They are undoubtedly keen to preserve their ascendancy.

Prince Abdullah has no such kinship. But, owing to his mother, who hails from the powerful Shammari tribe, he is popular with the tribes of the central Najd region, the traditional cradle of the House of Saud. He also commands the National Guard, an internal security force which is a counterweight to the army.

Desert hawk assumes control, page 7



Successor: Prince Abdullah, King Fahd's half-brother



Police activity at the scene of yesterday's fatal shooting in St Paul's, Bristol, and (below) the aftermath of the 1980 riot in the area

'When he saw anyone in trouble, he had to help'

Gary Young on a site of violence

Dawn death in urban badland

THE fatal shooting of community centre caretaker Evon "Bangy" Berry, who died yesterday, tried to stop a street thief in St Paul's, Bristol, will only further entrench the area's notoriety as one of Britain's most violent urban badlands, despite the efforts of many local people to turn things around.

St Paul's was the first of Britain's inner-cities to go up in flames in the eighties when unemployment in the community was running at more than 20 per cent. But the area, which lies at the heart of Bristol's Trinity Road district, did not attract the kind of money that was earmarked for the likes of Toxteth, in Liverpool, or Brixton, in south London.

At the time, the government refused to admit a link between these disturbances and urban deprivation. But it was a fact that even the local police could not ignore. "It is a coincidence that, at the depths of the 1980-81 recession, when unemployment began to rise sharply from its 1970 base, the first urban riots of the modern era occurred in St Paul's and Brixton," asked the Avon and Somerset constabulary in the Operational Police Review. But in 1986, St Paul's saw many of its inhab-



was originally intended in a way that made any real difference. The unemployment rate remained high and racial tensions between local community and police have continued to simmer.

"The perception held by black people is still that the system is not fair. Their experience is that they are dealt with much more harshly," said the chairman of Bristol's Society Against Racial Incidents, Sohail Elahi.

But the disturbances which took place in Bristol's working class housing estate of Hartcliffe in 1982 showed that, if the defining factors in the 1980s uprisings had been racism and police harassment, they had now shifted to poverty and the petty crime of the never-employed.

By this time St Paul's had gained a reputation as a focal point for drug-related crime that it has found difficult to shake off.

Between 1980 and 1980 violent offences and car theft in Bristol almost doubled, burglaries and indecent assaults against women more than doubled, and theft from cars and serious criminal damage rocketed by some 350 per cent.

Surveys have indicated that Trinity district accounted for one in four of the crimes committed in the entire Avon and Somerset police area and that an estimated 90 per cent are drug-related.

Last month two young men were shot and injured in separate drug-related incidents. The police clamped down on drug dealing in the area, earning them the approval among some of those active in the local community. "We were faced by violence or the threat of it every day, but the police have been successful in overcoming formidable obstacles," said the chairman of the Asian traders' association in Bristol, Maqsood Zamir.

A new, more high-profile style of policing soon began to bear fruit: Trinity Road saw a 6 per cent drop in crime in the first half of last year and bur-

glaries fell by 25 per cent. But police insisted there was no drug connection to yesterday's killing. "There is nothing to suggest that this was anything other than a street robbery which went tragically wrong," said Chief Inspector Piet Blesheuevel.

In fact, Mr Berry appears to have died from the very kind of communal act St Paul's can ill-afford to lose. His sister, Olline Johnson, said: "He was always trying to help people. He liked to help if he possibly could."

A senior police officer added: "Mr Berry was apparently the sort of man who could not turn his back when someone needed help. When he saw someone in trouble, he could not turn a blind eye."

ants clash violently with the police again, prompting the government to act. St Paul's was duly made one of the eight targets selected by the Department of Employment's inner-city task force, which offered businessmen financial incentives to set up in the area.

Yet, as has proved the case with Brixton and Toxteth, there has been little evidence that whatever investment it attracted actually trickled down to those for whom it

was originally intended in a way that made any real difference. The unemployment rate remained high and racial tensions between local community and police have continued to simmer.

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A new, more high-profile style of policing soon began to bear fruit: Trinity Road saw a 6 per cent drop in crime in the first half of last year and bur-

Some of those who have paid the price for having a go

- Ted Newberry, aged 82, was ordered to pay £4,000 to an intruder, Mark Revill, after shooting him when he tried to break into a shed on his allotment at Ilkeston, Derbyshire, in 1988. At the time he was cleared of deliberately injuring Mr Revill, who was jailed for six months. Mr Revill subsequently pursued a civil suit.
- Roy Bannistre-Parker, a retired major, was arrested last June after tackling a youth who broke into his home. Charges against Mr

- Bannistre-Parker were dropped but his shotgun licence was revoked.
- Barrie Richards, aged 59, was charged with actual bodily harm against Michael Hecker, 20, after he fired his shotgun over the heads of two thieves in July. Mr Richards was acquitted and Mr Hecker was jailed for eight months for stealing from a car.
- Stuart Hicken, a 41-year-old Bridlington hotelier, was ordered to do 150 hours' community service

- and pay £750 costs last July after he locked up a guest, Norman Stocks, in the cellar after catching him taking £5. Mr Stocks was given a conditional discharge.
- Malcolm Albrighton, 48, died after being punched by a burglar he tried to chase from his home in Warwickshire in May 1994.
- Harold Petrie, 46, was stabbed to death by a robber last September after saving his wife, who was at a social club in Aberdeenshire.

- John Penfold, 22, was given a posthumous bravery award from the Queen after he was stabbed to death in November 1994 by Ian Kay when he tried to foil a robbery at Woolworth's in Teddington, where he worked. Kay was jailed for a minimum of 22 years.
- Phillip Lawrence, a 48-year-old headmaster, was stabbed to death last month after he tried to intervene as a gang attacked a pupil at a school in Maidstone, Kent.

French dictionary writes wrongs

ALEX DUVAL SMITH IN PARIS

FRENCH author has come up with the perfect tool for anyone who has spent ages leading through a dictionary to locate the correct spelling of a word. Michel Danse's Dictionary of Spelling Mistakes lists French words according to the manner in which they are most frequently misspelt and gives the correct version.

The 3,000-entry book, which includes spelling exercises, reveals how far the French are flummoxed by the complexities of their language.

The silent H leads to many aberrations. Listed under A is "adok" which the book explains should be spelled "adock". Similarly, under E, you find that the correct spelling of "ernie" is "hernie" (hernia). Foreign words are hardest of all, such as "bookmaker" (bookmaker) and "wouist" (whist).

The title of the inch-thick book — Dictionnaire des Fautes d'Orthographe — is likely to catch out many of its readers, who are likely to spell it Dictionnaire des Fôtes d'Orthographe. Even then they have to know their "alfabet" (alphabet) and have some "vo-

quabulère" (vocabulaire).

Mr Danse, aged 56, whose previous work includes a guidebook to a Paris cemetery, said he got the idea while working as a French teacher.

"Approximate spelling can be found in all walks of life. It struck me that ordinary dictionaries are only of help if you already know how to spell the word you are looking for," he said.

"Over a number of years I kept notes of frequently misspelt words. The dictionary is really just a list of them," he said.

The book, published by Edi-

tions du Rocher and priced £19.95 (29.20), may revive a debate which last raged nearly 10 years ago over whether written French should be adapted to modern phonetics.

Under the system of "nouvelle orthographe" — an idea floated by the French Academy in 1987 — the word phonétique would be spelled fonetik.

The system met with howls of protest in a country in which orthography is considered an art form. Every year, a national spelling competition is organised, with regional heats and a final which is broadcast live on television.

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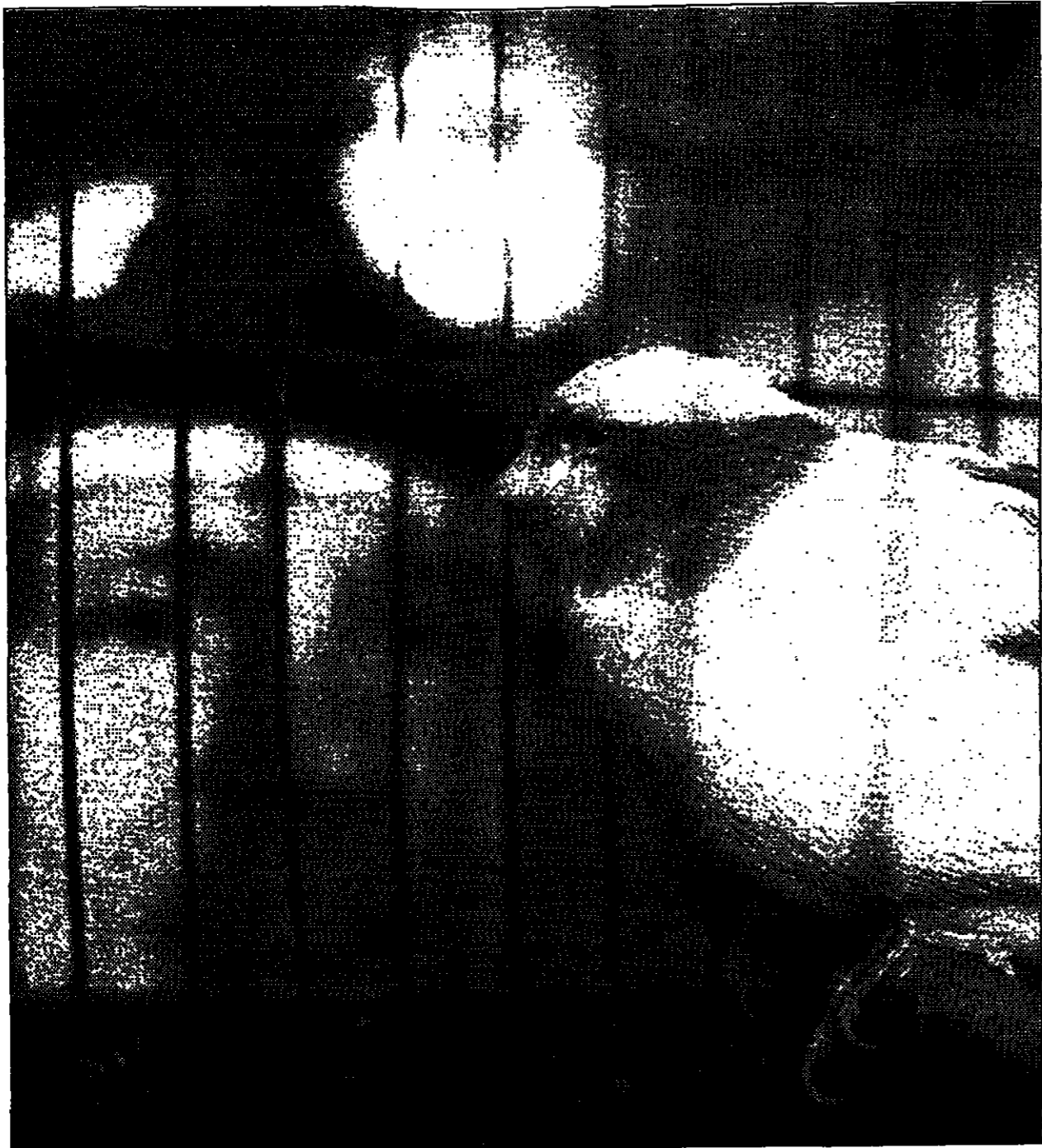
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The ground where the fifth Test starts today not only bears no resemblance to the one on which England played their last Test in Cape Town 31 years ago, it bears no resemblance to that used three years ago.

Matthew Engel page 15

JULY AUGUST
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Last day at pit... One of the last canaries to put his life on the line for miners is shown off by Gary Williams, rescue official at Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear. The bird and his colleagues are retiring under a new law ending the need for songbirds to be used in pits as back-up for battery-operated poison gas detectors. PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL NORRIS

English start earlier than French and Spanish, survey shows

Family attitudes blamed for teenage drinking

Chris Millill
Medical Correspondent

MORE English teenagers drink alcohol than their contemporaries in France and Spain, and their consumption is higher, research has found.

A perceived lack of family support by English parents, and social pressures to appear adult, which are not present in France or Spain, may account for the higher rates of drinking, say the researchers, who have looked at nearly 7,000 young people.

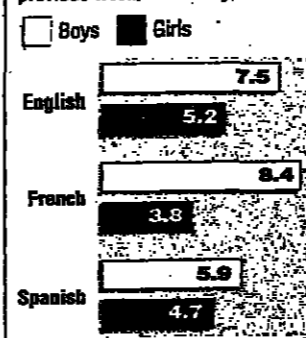
Parental attitudes towards alcohol appear particularly crucial to boys' consumption, with both overly liberal and too strict regimes encouraging drinking.

The study into adolescent drink and perceptions of family life was carried out by Geoff Lowe, a psychologist at the University of Hull, and David Foxcroft, of Portsmouth University, together with Jacques Weill, from Paris, and Javier Alvarez, of Valladolid, in northern Spain.

The researchers analysed questionnaires from children aged 11 to 16 at 35 schools in Humberston, 12 in Tours and eight in Valladolid. They involved 4,386 English pupils, 1,504 Spanish and 960 French.

Overall, only 14 per cent of the English pupils said they did not drink, compared with 32 per cent of the French and 46 per cent of the Spanish. Among those aged 13 to 16 who said they were drinkers, the average number of units consumed in the previous

Teenage drinking
Average units consumed in the previous week, 13 to 16-year-olds.



week was 7.5 for English boys and 5.2 for English girls. For French boys it was 8.4, for girls 3.8; for Spanish boys 5.9, and for girls 4.7. A unit represents half a pint of beer or a small glass of wine.

Those aged 11 to 16 who reported drinking 21 units or more in the past week stood at 3 per cent of the Spanish pupils, 5 per cent of the French and 6 per cent of the English.

The numbers saying their fathers were regular drinkers stood at 33 per cent for both the English and French pupils, and 20 per cent for the Spanish. The rates for mothers were 16 per cent for the English teenagers, 14 for the French and 4 for the Spanish.

Pupils who reported that their parents did not like them to drink consisted of 69 per cent of the Spanish children, 36 French and 16 English.

The report concluded: "Self-

reported drinking behaviour was greater in English adolescents, particularly boys. Perceptions of family support and control are greater in French and Spanish adolescents.

Parental attitudes to drinking are perceived as more liberal/lenient by English adolescents. In the case of boys, such influences seem to contribute significantly to differential drinking patterns."

English children may be under greater pressure to attain adult status, and that drinking is one socially perceived characteristic of adult status. "By contrast in France and Spain there may be less pressure on children and adolescents to hurry into adulthood."

Dr Lowe said that overall teenage drinking was not at alarming levels in this country, but that parents should be aware that their attitudes were important. A too strict approach, so that alco-

hol appeared as "forbidden fruit" was counter-productive, but so was an overly liberal approach, especially if this was perceived by the children as indifference or lack of care.

"There are some youngsters who get into heavy drinking, but the vast majority drink much less or are non-drinkers. However, among English drinkers, more drank to get drunk than the French or Spanish," Dr Lowe said.

"There were also differences in where the first drink was taken. English pupils were more likely to have had it from a friend in the street or a park, whereas for the French or Spanish it was likely to be in bar, restaurant or the family home.

"We have no evidence that teenage drinking in this country is a problem or is getting worse, but our work does show that family attitudes are quite important."

'Life-saving' drink limit gets road safety toast

Figures to be released today are expected to show a fall in the number of motorists testing positive for drink-driving during Christmas and the new year. Australia and some EU countries have adopted a lower alcohol limit — rejected by Steven Norris — which they say saves lives. Sue Quinn reports



Steven Norris: rejected call by EMA and safety council

AS THE minister responsible for overseeing the campaigns against drink-driving, Steven Norris would get short shrift from his Australian counterparts over the Government's refusal to lower the motoring alcohol limits.

A month ago Mr Norris rejected a joint call by the British Medical Association and Parliamentary Advisory Council on Road Safety to reduce the blood alcohol concentration from 80mg per 100ml of blood to 50mg.

He said such a change would not necessarily change drivers' behaviour. But in Australia and in some parts of Europe, the conviction is growing that lower limits keep deaths off the roads.

Australia's 50mg per 100ml limit is recognised to have contributed to a 12 per cent national reduction in crashes involving drivers with blood alcohol above 150mg per 100ml as well as an 8 per cent reduction in the range between 80 and 150.

So convinced were the road safety authorities in Australia that the lower limit saved lives and money that the federal government made it a condition that no state or territory would receive special

road funding grants unless they fell into line.

In Queensland, which reduced its limit from 80 to 50 in 1982 the argument for a lower limit is compelling.

A study by the Western Australian Drug Authority showed that three years after the introduction of the new level, there had been a 13.6 per cent reduction in the number of night-time road accidents involving hospitalisation.

In New South Wales, the most highly populated state, the limit was reduced in 1980 and a random breath testing programme introduced two years later. Since then the state's road toll has steadily declined from 1,253 per year to 651 in 1994. And the proportion of drivers and riders killed with blood alcohol of 50mg or more fell from about 40 per cent in 1981 and has averaged 33 per cent ever since.

Advocates of a European 50mg limit are looking with interest at Belgium, which reduced its blood alcohol limit from 80 to 50 in December, 1994.

Initial results show there was a 28 per cent reduction in the number of alcohol related accidents in the first two

months compared with the corresponding period in the previous year.

This included an 11 per cent reduction in alcohol related accidents where people were injured and a 20 per cent reduction in fatal and serious accidents.

Jeanne Breen, the executive director of the European Transport Safety Council, urges caution. She says that since then there has been no increase in breath testing or police vigilance and little follow up media interest. "It's likely that the initial reductions will not be sustained because of this," she says.

However the European Transport Safety Council strongly believes there is evidence to warrant the introduction of a standard EU 50mg limit.

There are five different levels operating in the EU, ranging from 20mg (Sweden) to 80mg (Austria, Denmark, Germany, Britain, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain). But there is a trend towards the 50mg level introduced in Finland, France, Greece, Belgium and Holland.

Rob Gifford, executive director of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Road Safety, is perplexed at the British Government's intransigence on the issue.

While drink-drive road deaths in Britain have fallen from about 1,300 per year in the early 1980s to 510 last year, he says the trend has stalled and "hard core" drink drivers need their behaviour further modified.

"I think you can make a very strong case that a reduction in the limit would lead to a reduction in the number of fatalities, as long as it is supported by vigorous enforcement and a public education campaign," Mr Gifford says.

"My view is that we have got to a place below which it is very difficult to go without a lower limit on the amount of alcohol people can consume."

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The lines are already drawn for the so-called Third Battle of Newbury. It could spark off this week, when the bulldozers move in on the communities living in wigwams, benders and treehouses along the route of the proposed A34 bypass.

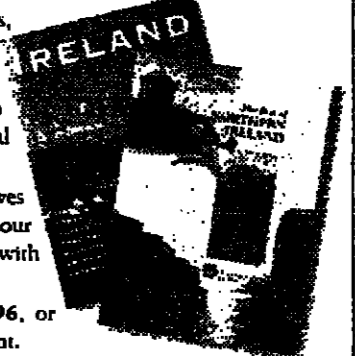
Alex Bellis
G2 page 2

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It's the Year of the Pier, but many 'unique' coastal landmarks are on a financial limb

New wave of hope to save rotting piers from the sea

Maev Kennedy and Tom Sharrott

THE Year of the Pier swept in yesterday on a tide of enthusiasm around the country's coasts...

The British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions, and the National Piers Society, have signed up 23 pier-owners to celebrate the event with end-of-the-pier shows, clowns and fireworks...

Meanwhile, piers everywhere are rotting. Most need repairs they could never pay for from revenue, and the privately owned ones are not eligible for lottery funding...

If the Year of the Pier is launched on the Palace Pier in Brighton, the celebrations will be in sight of the sad hulk of the East Pier...

year more is washed away and the end of the pier is now an island.

Bognor Regis pier is still open, but its admirers don't think it will last long enough to join in the party...

The owners want to demolish 40 metres of the sea end, the council is threatening to serve a dangerous structures notice and close it to the public...

Paul Wells, a 25-year-old member of the Charitable Pier Company and co-author of a book on the pier's history, says: "We don't know what's going to happen to it. We go down after every high tide to check it's still there. It's really very sad."

Up in Southport, meanwhile, the trustees of the country's first purpose-built pleasure pier hope National Lottery funds may save their 1,211-yard Victorian structure with £2.7m from donations and fund-raising.

The trust has already won a £641,000 grant from the European regional development fund and £150,000 from Sefton council. It plans to find another £210,000 from donations and fund-raising.



Sea of troubles... Southport's 1860 pier, which faces closure without £2.7m lottery funds to save it. PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

Trident refit control goes to US

David Fairhall Defence Correspondent

THE support of Britain's nuclear deterrent force is about to be handed over to an US-owned company at a cost about £100 million higher than the last figure the Government mentioned.

Three centuries after Devonport became a royal naval dockyard the Ministry of Defence is steering it towards a new status as a privately owned operation under the control of a Texas energy conglomerate. The vehicle for this contentious move is a forthcoming contract to refit the Royal Navy's Trident nuclear missile submarines.

Only a few weeks ago it looked as if the increased price being demanded by Devonport Management Limited (DML) to build a nuclear-capable dock — probably 40 per cent more than its original bid — had persuaded the Ministry of Defence to abandon privatisation and do the job itself, but the Secretary of State Michael Portillo was not prepared to face such an embarrassing U-turn and has told his officials to try again.

The crucial difference in their new plan is that DML will be controlled by a US company. DML's three shareholders, Brown and Root, BECC, and the Weir Group, have agreed to rearrange their holdings so that Brown and Root — itself a wholly owned subsidiary of the Texas energy conglomerate Halliburton — will have a controlling stake.

The prospect of the Trident refit programme ultimately being run from Dallas has prompted fresh concern among the dockyard's workforce, already depleted by a succession of redundancies. David Jamieson, Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport, has raised the further question of whether the support of Britain's nuclear deterrent force should be at the mercy of international share dealings.

DML won the job of supporting the Trident nuclear deterrent force in 1993, bidding £64 million less than its Scottish rival, the Rosyth naval dockyard. The refit programme will eventually be worth £5 billion. The construction cost of the Trident dock was given by the MoD as £236 million.

When the bill finally comes in it is expected to be about £100 million higher, part of which is attributable to inflation. Tighter nuclear safety standards are another factor, particularly a requirement that a submarine under refit must be able to survive an earthquake which breaches the dry dock gate.

However, Mr Jamieson suspects that the main addition to the taxpayer's bill will result from privatising the dockyard.

The US owners will have to accept financial liability, for example in the event of a nuclear accident, which were previously covered by the Crown's immunity.

Dockyard sources deny this, arguing that Crown immunity was removed eight years ago when DML took over the management of the yard. So while nuclear safety problems may affect the sale valuation of the dockyard, the change of ownership should not affect the cost of the Trident refit dock.

The construction estimate submitted to the MoD in 1993 was calculated against an arbitrary specification designed to ensure direct comparison with the rival bid from Rosyth. The figures are now being reworked to fit the Devonport site, taking account of new nuclear safety rules, and cover commercial risks, and cover operators must assume under more complex terms and conditions of contract.

What is to stop a hostile country taking over Brown and Root? he said.

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ink limit by toast

OF IRELAND FROM BOTTOM. ER TO COVER. Holidays '96

Police stop music for missing girl

Angella Johnson

DETECTIVES stopped the music at a night club where new year revellers were celebrating to appeal for information about teenager Louise Smith who has been missing for a week.

Louise, 18, disappeared after leaving the Spirals club at Vaux, near Bristol, after a Christmas Eve party. A former boyfriend said he saw her get into a blue Ford Fiesta car, thought to have been driven by a woman called Emma. Officers attempted to jog the memories of partygoers who may have been at the club at the same time as Louise.



Louise Smith: last seen early on Christmas Day

"repeat" event — exactly a week after the Christmas party Louise had attended.

said a police spokesman. The club is a popular venue and many of the youngsters are regular visitors. Uniformed and plain-clothes police handed out leaflets and interviewed revellers after asking the DJ to halt the music so they could make an appeal for information.

The spokesman said there was an "excellent response" but he now has lots more material to sift through and help us in our search.

However, the operation had brought no startling revelations. Police remain "extremely concerned" for Louise, but say they are keeping an open mind about what might have happened to her. The clerical assistant was last seen shortly after 3am on Christmas Day as she left the club — less than a mile from her home at Chipping Sodbury — with friends. She declined their offer of a lift in a taxi, but was later seen to get into the blue Fiesta. Police say they are trying to trace the car and driver.

Officers have stressed Louise's disappearance is totally out of character. She had not taken any extra money or clothes from home. She was looking forward to spending Christmas with her family and had wrapped presents for them which remain under their Christmas tree.

Louise was wearing a dark blue and green checked jacket over a white satin blouse and black satin dress. She had black high-heeled shoes.

Parents join Thai hunt for daughter

Tom Sharrott

THE parents of a 23-year-old British woman who has gone missing in Thailand have appealed for anyone who may have seen her to help them find out what has happened to her.

Johanne Masheder was due to return home to London for Christmas, but failed to catch her flight from Bangkok to Heathrow on December 21. Interpol has been alerted and Thai police have started a search.

Her parents, Stuart and Jackie Masheder, of Winkle, near Macclesfield, have flown to southern Thailand, where they believe their daughter may have been heading, to help in the hunt.

Johanne, newly qualified as a solicitor and about to take up a job with a firm in London, set off on a round-the-world trip in September. She had been backpacking in Thailand and last spoke to her mother on December 7, when she was in the northern town of Chiang Mai.

She said she was enjoying herself and was looking forward to the rest of the trip. She was due to travel to Bangkok the next day. A friend in England got a postcard from there dated December 8. She has not been heard of since. "I thought she might have had problems travelling around but I became really worried when she missed the plane," said Mr Masheder.

"She had Christmas, her sister Kate's 21st birthday and a new job with a firm of London solicitors to look forward to."

A Cheshire police spokesman said yesterday it was totally out of character for Johanne not to get in touch with home if there had been a change of plan. The British embassy in Bangkok is being kept up to date on the search.

Mr Masheder and his wife are based at the island resort of Ko Samui, off the south-east coast of Thailand.

company, said the family was very close and Johanne — known as Jo — was a sensible person.

"There is no doubt something has happened to her because if it had just been a change of plan she would have done everything to get in touch with us."

He said he and his wife felt they had to fly out to help in the search, but "the trail has been completely cold so far", even though they had hired private detectives and put out press and radio adverts.

He said: "What we would really like to do is alert anyone who may have been travelling with Jo in the north at the beginning of December, or on her way to Bangkok on December 8, or after that travelling south."

informative:

Table with financial data including Cheque Rate, High Interest Savings Account, and 60 Day Account. Columns include Interest, Gross, Net, and Net CAR.

Vacancies at JobCentres 'do not pay living wage'

MOST vacancies available through JobCentres do not pay a living wage for a couple with two children, according to a year-end analysis of vacancy data from all the major JobCentres in Greater Manchester.

It shows that more than nine out of 10 jobs pay less than £200 a week. "There is little doubt that similar results would be found around the country since Greater Manchester is by no means unique," said the report's author Gabrielle Cox, of the Manchester-based Low Pay Unit.

cent paid less than £100 a week, the survey showed. The average hourly rate of pay was just £3.66 an hour, while 12 per cent of jobs paid less than £2.75 per hour and only 20 per cent paid more than £4.15 an hour.

"Unemployed people are becoming increasingly frustrated by their inability to find jobs which would support a family," said Mrs Cox. "Lack of reasonably-paid jobs is a significant contributor to the growing reliance on benefits among families with children."

A quarter of all the jobs paid below the National Insurance threshold of £58 a week, and more than 45 per



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PRESS STATEMENT BY THE NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION ON THE ONIBIYO DEPORTATION MATTER

- 1. The attention of the Nigeria High Commission has been drawn to the plight of the Onibiyo family who are facing the unfortunate prospect of forced separation through the deportation to Nigeria of some members of their family. The High Commission has also noted the ongoing campaign to halt further deportations through public protestations and the judicial process.
2. The High Commission regrets that the campaigners for the Onibiyo family have found it exigent to resort to the despicable tactic of denigrating the Nigerian Government as a means to an end. The insinuations are that Mr Abdul Onibiyo who was recently deported to Nigeria some weeks ago has not been in communication with his family and so may have been arrested by the Nigerian authorities on account of his so-called pro-democracy activities and opposition to the Nigerian Government.
3. The Nigeria High Commission wishes to state unequivocally that Mr Abdul Onibiyo is not being held by any branch of the Nigerian law enforcement and security services. Extensive inquiries made in Nigeria has shown that Mr Onibiyo was never in the Nigeria Police WANTED LIST for any crime or any offence reasonable to the Nigerian state. In fact Mr Abdul Onibiyo is not a politician and was not known by the Nigerian authorities to be engaged in any political activities or campaigns either in Nigeria or in the United Kingdom. The Nigeria law enforcement agencies have no reason to detain Mr Abdul Onibiyo or his son Ade Onibiyo.
4. While the Nigeria High Commission, in consideration of its consular responsibilities to all Nigerians resident in the United Kingdom will not encourage measures that will result in the disruption of family unity through avoidable deportations, it nonetheless finds it unacceptable that individuals should resort to the unconscionable tactic of maligning the Nigerian government to achieve self-serving ends. This is most unpatriotic and ignores the long term damage that could be done to the image of the country.
5. The Nigeria High Commission wishes to seize this opportunity to appeal to Nigerians in the United Kingdom to endeavour to remain law abiding so that they do not find themselves in situations that would necessitate the use of such desperate tactics. This is the only way they can uphold the honour and integrity of Nigeria in all situations.

NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION LONDON

Museum at risk in boot sale ban

THE upkeep of a Grade 1 listed house whose grounds are home to a privately owned photographic museum is under threat after the local council banned fundraising car boot sales on the site, writes Geoffrey Gibbs.

Bowden House, a magnificent Tudor building with Regency facade set in 13 acres of wooded grounds outside Totnes, South Devon, has been restored by the Petersen family since they bought the dilapidated property almost 20 years ago.

Funds for renovation have come in part from car boot sales, which supplement the income from visitors to the house and the Petersens' British Photographic Museum.

But villagers complained about congestion in the narrow country lanes leading to the house, and South Hams district council in November gave the family three months to stop the sales.

Joan Petersen, who helps run Bowden House with her son Chris and his wife, says the £200 a week revenue from the boot sales is essential to meet the maintenance costs.

The family would be challenging the council's ban.

John Eaton, the council planning officer, said: "If they come to us and we can discuss the matter, we will seek to resolve it."



Family concern... the Petersens at Bowden House: Belinda (left) and husband Christopher with Mr Petersen's parents, Keith and Joan PHOTOGRAPH: TIM CLIFF

Water chaos in thaw

Angella Johnson

THOUSANDS of homes were flooded and some communities faced water shortages yesterday as freezing conditions gave way to a thaw, bursting water mains and domestic pipes across the country.

In Strathclyde, 500,000 homes had burst pipes over the holiday. And although engineers worked non-stop to restore mains supplies, for many people returning from holiday breaks to flooded homes could only switch off their supply at the mains.

More than 100,000 homes in Northern Ireland were also without water, and rationing was introduced as reservoirs emptied. Tankers are in use in some areas. The Water Service said around 20 per cent of Ulster's 600,000 homes were

affected by rota cuts of between two and 12 hours. Millions of gallons have been lost through burst pipes following the coldest December on record, when temperatures fell below minus 14C.

Thousands of consumers in the Carmarthen area of west Wales spent the day without water because of a burst main linking a treatment works and the River Towy.

Anglian Water reported dozens of calls to deal with burst mains and to cut off supplies to empty houses.

A spokesman for authorities in Essex and Suffolk, where hundreds of mains pipes burst over the weekend, said: "The phones are blocked out with calls."

Thames Water said customers were cut off at various times but teams were working to restore services. "Customers are advised to make

sure their pipes are properly lagged and that in really cold spells heating should be left on as much as possible to prevent freezing," a spokesman said.

According to weathermen, the Christmas freeze prevented 1995 being the warmest year on record. Until the final days of the year, Britain had average daily temperatures of 10.71C — marginally above 1948, the hottest 12 months since records began 336 years ago.

But the weather did not stop hundreds of thousands of revellers greeting the dawn of 1996 with celebrations across the country. In London, around 70,000 packed into Trafalgar Square, with 20,000 more in the surrounding area, while 300,000 gathered in central Edinburgh for a celebration claiming to be Europe's largest.

Old train steams into 1996

Geoffrey Gibbs takes a ride on a privately restored branch line axed 24 years ago

STEAM train enthusiasts were out in force in Dorset yesterday for the first New Year's Day service between Swanage and the village of Corfe Castle since the branch line was axed 24 years ago.

Among the passengers aboard the first of the four-coach trains to pull out of Swanage behind the Drummond M7 tank engine was Will Brook, a retired electronics engineer, who rode the last British Rail service on the line on January 1, 1972.

He and other volunteers from the 3,800-member Southern Steam Trust have painstakingly restored the 3½-mile link and its rolling

stock since the trust took possession of Swanage station in 1976.

Trains started running to Corfe Castle and Norden last August, and further improvements will be introduced this year when the signal box at Corfe Castle has been reconstructed and a new signal box is completed at Harman's Cross, the half-way point.

David Green, passenger services manager for Swanage Railway, which operates the line on behalf of the trust, said the line's extension to Norden, where parking facilities are good, was attracting people into the Swanage area. "We have been running

services daily since Boxing Day, and passenger loadings have been significantly up," he said. "Despite the miserable weather it's doing very well today."

The service will now close until the school half-term holiday in February, after which a weekend service will run until Easter before the daily service resumes through the summer.

Mr Brook works four days a week helping to restore locomotives at the railway company's engineering works. He and his wife had travelled on the line for their honeymoon in London in 1960, and took their children on the BR special on the day the line closed in 1972.

"Today was a very pleasant reminiscence of the old trains," he said.

News in brief

Attempted murder charges follow attack

A SUPERMARKET worker yesterday faced 10 charges of attempted murder after shoppers and staff were stabbed in a knife attack. Shahid Iqbal, aged 23, of Small Heath, Birmingham, is also accused of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm to two police officers.

Iqbal, a shelf stacker at the Netto store in Bordesley Green, Birmingham, where the attack took place, was remanded in custody for eight days by city magistrates. There was no application for bail.

Five people remain in hospital recovering from stab wounds following the attack on Friday. Five others have been treated and allowed home.

Fire Service callouts up 60pc

THE Fire Service has dealt with 60 per cent more incidents a year since 1990/93, according to figures produced by the House of Commons Library. The statistics, disclosed by Labour yesterday to support its campaign against cuts in the funding of the service, show a 23 per cent rise in call-outs to fires, a 66 per cent increase in other incidents and a 121 per cent rise in false alarms.

North Yorkshire, Tyne & Wear, West Yorkshire, Berkshire, Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Cheshire and Gwent brigades have all seen their workload more than double in 11 years.

Appeal over 'frenzied' murder

POLICE hunting the killer of a pensioner murdered at his home in a "brutal and frenzied" attack yesterday appealed for information from the public. Detective said Frederick Barnett, aged 70, regularly sold tobacco and cigarettes to local people and friends. They wanted to speak to anyone who visited him recently and people who saw his visitors.

Mr Barnett's nephew found his body on Saturday at his home in Hull, Humberside, where he is believed to have lived alone. He had suffered head and chest injuries from a blunt instrument and a knife.

Police unit for stadium

PREMIERSHIP leaders Newcastle United yesterday unveiled what is claimed to be the most advanced police facility at any stadium in the world. The new complex featuring a computerised custody suite, was opened by John Stevens, the Chief Constable of Northumbria and the United chairman Sir John Hall.

The £90,000 unit, jointly funded by the police and the club, means anyone arrested at a St James's Park match can be interviewed, charged and bailed, directly from the ground to the court. It includes a fingerprint and photographic suite, detention cells for up to 50 prisoners, a room for taping interviews, another for writing reports and doctors' examination rooms.

Fishing quota warning

A TORY MP warned yesterday of further cuts in fishing quotas as the Royal Navy patrolled the Irish Box, an area west of Britain and surrounding Ireland, in readiness for the arrival of the Spanish fleet. David Harris, the fisheries committee chairman who voted against the Government on the Spanish access issue in the Commons, has written to the Prime Minister calling on him to amend the Common Fisheries Policy under which foreign boats are admitted to British waters.

Up to 40 Spanish craft at a time have been allowed into the Irish Box under a European Union agreement bitterly opposed by UK fishermen.

Attacked woman dies

AN elderly widow who suffered a fractured skull in a street attack on Boxing Day died in hospital. Evelyn Stanford, aged 63, was left lying in a pool of blood in Wolverhampton in the early hours of Boxing Day.

On Saturday three men appeared before Wolverhampton magistrates charged with robbing her. Police will wait until a post mortem today before deciding on further charges.

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سکتا من الاعمال

David Beresford reveals the story of the hippy turned ANC freedom fighter who blew up two about-to-be-commissioned nuclear reactors near Cape Town. The saboteur fled the country by bicycle, eventually marrying his accomplice in England. Even today the ANC is reluctant to talk about the most audacious act of sabotage in the anti-apartheid struggle



Happy ending... Rodney Wilkinson and Heather Gray after their wedding in Woodbridge, Suffolk

Man who spiked apartheid's Bomb

IT IS one of the curiosities of resistance to apartheid that few people, even South Africans, recall the African National Congress's most significant military coup. Even the ANC shows a reluctance, when evoking the glories of the struggle, to make much of the day it bombed Cape Town's Koeberg nuclear power plant. It is almost as if it is too shocked by its audacity to acknowledge the act.

But, after fierce resistance from some quarters of the new South African establishment, the Guardian is finally able to disclose at least the bare bones of this extraordinary saga. On December 18, 1982, it is one which deserves recording, if not simply as a story of derring-do, at least as a cautionary tale for the nuclear lobby.



The almost unbelievable attack was carried out by a Springbok — South Africa's one-time national fencing champion — who dropped out of university and joined a commune near Koeberg in the late 1970s. The operation was born of chance. When the community ran out of money in 1978, Rodney Wilkinson, who had studied building science as well as politics, reluctantly took a job at the plant, then under construction.

He worked there for 18 months. Encouraged by his girlfriend, Heather Gray, a speech therapist, he stole a set of the building plans. The couple took them to newly-independent Zimbabwe with the idea that they could be used by the ANC to attack the French-built nuclear installation which, it was suspected at the time, would be used by South Africa to produce plutonium for the construction of atomic bombs.

The ANC, whose ranks had been deeply infiltrated by Pretoria's spies, and which had recently had one of its agents jailed on charges of nuclear espionage, was initially suspicious of the white South African who pitched up on its doorstep, claiming to have penetrated what was assumed to be the most secure installation in South Africa.

After lengthy delays, during which the stolen plans were authenticated by Soviet and Western nuclear scientists, and Mr Wilkinson was vetted, the ANC invited him to carry out the attack himself. He was taken aback by the request, but agreed and returned to South Africa. To his surprise he gained fresh employment at Koeberg, with the task of mapping pipes and valves at the installation, for use in case of emergency.

The ANC appointed a guerrilla commander in Swaziland to act as Mr Wilkinson's handler. Once a month he visited the mountain kingdom — a favourite resort for whites in search of illicit pleasures not available in puritanical South Africa — under the pretence of enjoying a "dirty weekend". There he and his handler thrashed out strategy, designed to maximise embarrassment to the South African authorities while ensuring the minimum risk to human life.

They honed down possible targets to the two reactor heads, another section of the containment building, and a concentration of electric cables under the main control room. The choice of the reactor heads, which would be used to control the nuclear reaction, was to maximise the propaganda impact. Made of 110 tons of steel, they were unlikely to be seriously affected by the blasts, but they would demonstrate the ANC's capacity to hit at the heart of the plant.

The other two targets were chosen to cause as much damage as possible. Mr Wilkinson established that nuclear fuel had been moved into the plant ready for loading into the reactors, but was in dormant storage, which minimised any risk of radioactive fallout.

The date for the attack was set for December 16. White South Africans marked the day each year with a public holiday celebrating the battle of "Blood River" — a 19th century victory by the Boers over the Zulus. But the date had another significance: the ANC commemorated it as "MK" day, in honour of the founding of its guerrilla army, Umkhonto we Sizwe.

Mr Wilkinson and his Gray dug up four limpet-mines from a roadside arms cache in the Karoo, a remote area of the South African interior. Hiding them in wine box de-canters in their Renault 5,

they drove back to their home in the Cape Town suburb of Claremont, where they hid the devices in holes conveniently dug by their puppy, Gaby.

From there Mr Wilkinson smuggled the mines one by one, in a hidden compartment of the Renault, through the perimeter security fence at the nuclear installation, depositing them in a desk drawer in his prefabricated office. He then carried them hidden in his overalls through a security gate into the main building.

The build-up to the attack was marked by a series of near-mishaps. At one stage an accidental short circuit started a cable fire. The incident was reported in the press and the ANC's president in exile, Oliver Tambo — who was privy to the planned operation but not to details such as timing — released a statement claiming it as an ANC

would be deserted, he was then forced to undergo a farewell party on the premises with his fellow engineers, mentally praying that the time fuses were not defective. That afternoon he flew to Johannesburg and was driven with a borrowed bicycle to a point near the Swaziland border, where he rode into exile.

The bombs detonated, but not quite as planned: the springs on the firing mechanism proved brittle and the devices exploded over a period of several hours instead of simultaneously. But the damage was devastating. The authorities put the cost at half a billion rand and the commissioning of the plant was delayed for 18 months.

The attack was a chilling demonstration of the vulnerability of an atomic installation to sabotage, as well as a reflection on the incompetence of South African security. The authorities at Koeberg have since made the extraordinary claim that they not only anticipated the attack but had pin-pointed the date.

In a recent book on the history of the plant, a former executive, Paul Semark, is quoted as saying: "We knew the ANC would not target Koeberg once nuclear fuel was there, and that they would try to attack at a time which would ensure the least loss of life."

"We even pinpointed December 16 1982, which was a public holiday, as the likely date." Their inability to

counter the threat is not explained. The apparent helplessness of the authorities is even more astonishing in the light of Mr Wilkinson's background. He joined the work-force at the plant twice — on both occasions getting access to the most sensitive sectors of nuclear installation — but was never subjected to security vetting.

If his background had been checked they could have discovered that he had a history as a military deserter, and involvement in the anti-nuclear campaign. Six years before, doing his national service, he had been hospitalised after wrecking an army armoured truck while going AWOL with 12 colleagues during the South African invasion of Angola. Military police took statements but, apparently be-

cause of the illegality of the Angolan invasion, did not prosecute him. He was also caught breaching security at the nuclear plant, but nothing was done about it. Alcohol was banned in the plant. Testing security by smuggling in a bottle of vodka — roughly the shape of a limpet mine — he was caught in possession of it while wandering, hiccupping, around the "holy of holies", the main control room.

"I wanted to have a look; you see it in all the films — this great big room with all these banks of computers. But the tension must have been too much for me: I drank the vodka," he recounts wryly. Detained in the guard room, he was released after being given a warning by a security officer whom he knew from the local squash club.

Mr Wilkinson says his worst moment was when he was on his way to plant the second mine in the Reactor One containment building and spotted a guard watching him with apparent suspicion. "My legs were like jelly and I could feel beads of perspiration on my face." He detoured and placed the device at an alternative target the ANC had identified — in another concentration of cables under the second control room.

A seemingly impossible obstacle he had to overcome was carrying mines into the "clean" area surrounding the reactors, access to which was gained through an airlock where he had to strip and don protective clothing.

But he discovered that pipe tunnels leading into the clean area had plastic diaphragms to keep the air clean, and he was able to simply push the bombs through them, pass

through the airlock himself, and collect them on the other side. "When I thought of that I was on cloud nine. I had been having sleepless nights about it," Mr Wilkinson recalls. A pivotal figure in the operation was Mac Maharaj, an underground leader of the ANC in South Africa and now minister of transport, after whom the project — "Operation Mac" — was named.

There was a subsequent attack by the South African security forces in which a couple were badly injured, which was believed to have been a misdirected act of retaliation. Mr Wilkinson fled from Swaziland to Maputo, where he met Mr Tambo in the ANC leader's office, the two men crying in each other's arms at their triumph. Ms Gray, who had flown out of South Africa a week before the attack, joined Mr Wilkinson there and they flew to Britain, where they were married in Woodbridge, Suffolk.

"They never got to know how it was done, until now they have not known the identity of this couple," Mr Maharaj told the Guardian. In expectation of "vicious" retaliation by the South African security forces after the blast, Mr Wilkinson and Ms Gray were placed under "deep cover".

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"We even pinpointed December 16 1982, which was a public holiday, as the likely date." Their inability to counter the threat is not explained.

News in brief

Karachi murder toll dents Bhutto claim of control

AT LEAST 12 people were murdered in Karachi yesterday, exploding claims by Benazir Bhutto's government that political and ethnic violence in Pakistan's economic capital is being brought under control, writes Gerald Bourke in Islamabad. Among the dead were two army captains, two policemen and a paramilitary ranger, police said. Of the 1,950 people who met violent deaths in the city last year, more than 200 were security force members. Officials blamed the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM), which enjoys widespread support in Karachi but vehemently opposes Ms Bhutto. Officials said the murders might have been in retaliation for the killing by security forces last Friday of four MQM activists. The grisliest of yesterday's killings took place when six youths tied up a milk seller and his five sons at home in the suburb of Korangi and sprayed them with gunfire.

Hanged writer 'Man of Year'

Several Nigerian newspapers have named Ken Saro-Wiwa as their "Man of the Year", because of the barrage of criticism the execution of the Ogoni writer and activist brought down on military rule, writes Chris McGreal in Johannesburg. Saro-Wiwa was hanged with eight other Ogonis in November for the murder of four political rivals.

Corsican shooting

Gunsmen shot dead a Corsican nationalist and three bombs exploded on the island yesterday in an apparent revival of a vendetta between rival separatist groups. — Reuter.

Liberia surrender

Rebels fighting African peacekeepers in Tubmanburg, western Liberia, began surrendering yesterday, aid workers said. They turned up at peacekeeping positions with their weapons, waving white flags. — Reuter.

Island quake

A powerful earthquake shook Sulawesi island, Indonesia, yesterday, destroying wooden houses and triggering tidal waves. — Reuter.

Spotlight falls on puppet-master

Kevin Rafferty charts the rise of Japan's powerful and outspoken opposition leader

JAPAN'S political pundits expect a general election in the next few weeks, following the choice last year of the aggressive Ichiro Ozawa as president of the opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier) party. "His election will bring into the open tensions and battles that have been rumbling for months under the surface," said a leading commentator. A skilled operator in smoke-filled rooms, Mr Ozawa now moves into the public spotlight. He was secretary-general of Shinshinto and before that held a similar job in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which ruled Japan continuously for 38 years. There he learned the dark arts of political spring-pulling and was groomed by Japan's supreme godfather, Shin Kanemaru, to succeed him as fixer and kingmaker. But Kanemaru was caught for corruption, disgraced and toppled, and his power base split. Rivalry between Mr Ozawa and Ryutaro Hashimoto led the former to quit the LDP in 1993, and brought an end to the party's long reign. Mr Hashimoto, truck and industry minister in the uneasy coalition government of Socialists and the conservative LDP, was elected LDP leader in September. Mr Ozawa is unusually opinionated and outspoken for a Japanese politician. In his book Blueprint for a New Japan, he calls for an end to cringing defeatism. He wants to see Japan assume an international political role commensurate with its economic status. An Ozawa-led government would be politically driven. For several years bureaucrats have ruled the roost, with politicians consigned to the role of referees in squabbles between ministries. When parliament resumes towards the end of this month, Mr Ozawa will seize the opportunity to show his mettle. He will attack the government's decision to use more than 650 billion yen

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One time his minders prevented pictures being taken of (David) Cassidy when his skin flared up in spots — the result of antibiotics he took perpetually as a prophylactic against venereal diseases — and tried to pass it off as teenage acne. He was 24 at the time.

Veronica Lee G2 page 9

سكنا من الامل

Madeleine Barot

Protestant rites of the Resistance

Madeleine Barot, who has died aged 88, was closely involved in two of the most remarkable episodes of the second world war in France...

ment and her interest in ecumenism was aroused. After graduation in 1935, Barot was given a fellowship to continue her studies in Rome...



Barot... formidable

on the international committee of the Student Christian Movement and in August 1938 was a delegate to the first world conference of Christian Youth...

Barot stayed in Rome until May 1940 when Italy entered the war. She was named secretary of CIMADE and, aware of the Resistance efforts organised by German Christians...

from the many international Protestant charities that had come together to form CIMADE. Nurses and food supplies arrived but the situation remained grim.

It became catastrophic when the Germans decided to expel Jews from their homes in Baden, and seven special trains brought 4,538 deportees, including many women, and dumped them in a rain-soaked Gurs in time for the worst winter of the war...

community into a purposeful force? Or is this a strong example of how the majority of the French population disapproved the racial laws of Vichy?

Barot believed that the Protestants of Le Chambon cherished the memory of their historical identity and acted with traditional independence. She liked to explain how, when the local gendarmes had to make an arrest, they would stop in the café and loudly discuss their intentions...



A powerful pioneer in the male-dominated church... Barot and Anglican clergy in New Delhi in 1961 for the WCC

and Society. I, like others, found her somewhat intimidating, but she had an intimidating job. Most WCC member churches in the 1950s had hardly given more than a passing thought to the possibility of a more prominent role for women in the church...

Our BCC International Affairs Division held regular meetings with the corresponding body of the French Protestant Federation, and one year Madeleine invited me to her apartment to stay. Over dinner, in a little local restaurant, we talked of their passionate concerns...

to know that younger women are carrying the torch. There is still so much to do. By then she walked with extreme difficulty, but the national branch of the Christian anti-torture association, ACAT (Action Chrétienne pour l'Abolition de la Torture), of which she was a founding member, met regularly in her Paris apartment.

when CIMADE was smuggling Jewish children out of France into Switzerland, popping them over the border fence. One night Madeleine heard the German guard coming. She herself climbed over the fence, but was caught on the top, and in her fright fell into Switzerland, right on top of a Swiss guard. 'And you know', she added, 'I am very big!'

Patric Knowles

Secondary panache

How pleasant to know Patric Knowles. Who is the kindest of souls. But being handsome and a British swell. Nobody expects him to act very well. Which is why he never gets good roles.

How pleasant to know Patric Knowles. Who is the kindest of souls. But being handsome and a British swell. Nobody expects him to act very well. Which is why he never gets good roles.



Sidekick to Errol Flynn... actor, Patric Knowles

with a less wonky Welsh accent than most of the cast. At Universal, Knowles found himself drawn into the tatty end of their horror picture series like Strange Case of Dr X (1942) as a detective who almost has his brain transplanted into a gorilla, and Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man (1943) as a mad scientist reviving the monster (Bela Lugosi) - and as a doctor for Abbott and Costello.

and "other men". Knowles semi-retired to write a novel called Even Steven, returning to the screen in a couple of Westerns directed by Andrew McLaglen, The Way West (1967) and Chisum (1970) ably supporting much bigger stars. McLaglen also made The Devil's Brigade (1968), a second world war action picture starring William Holden, in which Knowles still looked trim and handsome, as well cast as Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Hugh Hollingsworth Smith

End to the scourge of yellow fever

THE PIONEERING and courageous American virologist Hugh Hollingsworth Smith, who in the 1930s played a major role in the development and field trials of the 17D vaccine against yellow fever, has died aged 93.

Yellow fever, whose name derives from its characteristic jaundice, is a fatal tropical disease which, until the turn of the century, was a deadly scourge. It took a huge toll among Europeans in Africa and more notably among humans and primates.

Smith retired from the Rockefeller Foundation in 1954 and four years later he took up a teaching and research post at the University of Arizona, which he held until 1968 and where he founded a society of tropical medicine. Although his interest in the arboviruses never waned, his studies broadened into the relationship between endemic tuberculosis and the incidence of other diseases - a relationship which in the past decade has proved significant in the study of Aids in Africa.

Another Day

January 2, 1812: You will have heard, in all probability, an account of my shipwreck from Mr Coutts. That I am here to relate it is rather extraordinary, for I escaped not only a sinking ship, but put to sea in a boat when one could hardly have supposed it could have lived five minutes - the storm was so great. Everything I possessed I have lost... To collect clothes in this part of the world to dress as an Englishwoman would be next to impossible... To dress as a Turkish woman would not do, because [then] I must not be seen to speak to a man; therefore I had nothing left for it but to dress as a Turk... a sort of silk and cotton shirt; next a striped silk and cotton waistcoat; over that another with sleeves and over that a cloth skirt jacket without sleeves. I had a pair of Turkish boots, a sash into which goes a brace of pistols, a knife, and a sort of short sword, a belt for powder and shot... I am a wretched figure - most like a blackguard, a Turkish sailor. The Life and Letters of Lady Hester Stanhope. John Murray, 1914.

Birthdays

David Bailey, photographer, 68; Simon Base, cricketer, 35; Nicholas Baring, chairman, Commercial Union, 62; Christopher Campbell, batsman, British Shipbuilders, 68; Admiral William Crowe, US ambassador to London, 61; David Graveney, cricketer, 42; Hilary Heilbron QC, 47; Doug McAvoy, general secretary, National Union of Teachers, 57; Sir Bruce Fawcett, governor, Bank of Scotland, 68; Sir Keith Thomas, president, British Academy and Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 68; Sir Michael Tippett OM CH, composer, 81.

Letter

Keith Dixon writes: J M Bernstein was wrong in his obituary of Gillian Rose (December 17, 1995) to characterise analytic philosophy as arid. The images associated with that word - parched, bereft of life, sterile, unproductive and alien to human existence - have no application to the discipline within which I was educated.

in contrast to sociological theory - which is often grandiose, inflated, opaque, tortured and muddled by the desire to promote political or moral ends - analytic philosophy in its heyday offered a new and exciting form of objective and rational discourse. It was a respect for the physical sciences, a sensitivity to linguistic nuance and subtlety of distinction; a suspicion of undisciplined speculation and a careful feel for the distinction between fact and value. Its practice encouraged proper intellectual severity and clarity.

HLA Bart's The Concept of Culture (1938) applied the analytical perspective to some hitherto intractable problems in jurisprudence. On a contemporary note, the most illuminating and rational analysis of feminist theory (The Septimal Feminist) was written by an analytic philosopher.

Anthony Tucker Hugh Hollingsworth Smith, virologist, born February 2, 1902; died December 16, 1995.

Jackdaw



Scroll down

I HAVE a job of sorts. It is called Paying the Rent Until I Write My Original Screenplay about Truth and Beauty. The job description: writing articles about celebrities for a young women's magazine... I'm planning to develop a computer program that will spit these things out with the touch of a few keys, a simple program, since there are very few variables. Already my word-processing program contains macro keystrokes that instantly call up such revelations as "shuns the Hollywood limelight in favour of spending quality time with his family at his sprawling ranch outside of Livingston, Montana."

came up - surprisingly - with a simple design, without the clutter of other pubs, but with a large clear glass window, painted walls and big plain wooden tables and chairs. It offered a choice of cash-conditioned beers and good-quality wines, and proper modern food. If people want it. The most significant feature, however, were the tables and chairs. It had finally occurred to a brewer not only that the British pub could be free from the supposed architectural conceits of the 19th century, but also that it was no longer necessary, or even profitable to perpetuate the tradition of rapid perpendicular drinking that had been established by the gin palaces of the same period.

Future Booze NOW, at long last, one of the big brewers has come up with a contemporary British pub design that could widely be reproduced. In 1994, Bass found a large site in Surton in south London that it wanted to exploit, but it did not have a ready-made theme to put in it. So it was forced to go off and develop a new one. It

music, then Bass really would have invented the pub of the future.

Ground Zero

SEPTEMBER 1, 08 March 2.30 am. Two boatloads of commandos appear off starboard. We see guns, stun grenades and tear-gas canisters. They come alongside and order us to stop. We just take their picture. Then they throw grappling hooks over our rails to board, but their ladder keeps falling over in the rough seas. So they sort of flop on to our deck, like bugs, on their backs. We are six miles from group one.

two or three? Yes. Expect to call him with a plastic bottle of whiskey. Finally we're informed that we'll be charged with a customs infraction! September 2. My mother tells New Zealand radio: "At least a scream would be better than this silence." Thanks, Mum. September 7. Los Angeles. Groggy we arrive at the LA airport. A caterer/cleaner comes on board, and I tell him I'm being held hostage by the French military. He seems uninterested.

Letting go

Details magazine grills the US Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich. SO WHAT'S the future of work going to look like? A combination of job hunting, a lot of uncertainty, and the absolute necessity of learning on the job. That sounds more like Blade Runner... Will we be more likely to have, say, ten jobs in a lifetime instead of

numbers of people sit all day long simply typing at keyboards, putting data into computers. Often they are monitored electronically. They cannot take more than a three-minute bathroom break. In these environments technology is trapping people, it's... oppressive.

Letting go

When is technology your enemy? ... If you're working in an organisation where management use it simply to control employees. Take the back offices... where large numbers of people sit all day long simply typing at keyboards, putting data into computers. Often they are monitored electronically. They cannot take more than a three-minute bathroom break. In these environments technology is trapping people, it's... oppressive.

young people to assume they will have a certain income cushion two, five, 10 years from now. That makes it more difficult to buy a house, start a family, do all the things which require at least some degree of confidence about the future.

Letting go

Most people will join what I call the anxious class... Corporations seem to have all the power these days... How can a worker protect him or herself from being exploited? The best protection is having skills that are in demand. There's no substitute for being someone whom the market needs... In a way I am freelancing. I spend a lot of time on the road, moving around the country talking to people... What you have to do is look at the faces of people at their workplaces. That's what I do. And what do you see there? The truth? Anxiety.

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414 5225

E-mail: jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-715 4366; or write to The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Soup kitchen asylum

Turning refugees on to the streets is wrong

CLOSURE of the Crisis at Christmas emergency shelters for the homeless rightly caused concern at the weekend as sub-zero temperatures continued across much of Britain. Yet a much bigger crisis involving thousands — rather than hundreds — of people looms. Three months ago in the fevered atmosphere of a Conservative Party conference, withdrawing welfare benefits from 13,000 asylum seekers (plus their children) seemed a good way to ministers to appease rightwing demands for tighter asylum control and wooing the racist vote. Three months on as ministers desperately deny their lurch to the right, the spectre of thousands of refugees being turned out of rented rooms and forced to use soup kitchens, shelters and even street doorways takes on a different hue.

Michael Howard presides. The emergence of a "culture of disbelief" in the Home Office's asylum division has been well documented by Amnesty International in its report on UK asylum procedures published six weeks ago. Just five years ago 23 per cent of all applicants were granted asylum and 60 per cent given exceptional leave to remain (ELR). This year the relevant figures have shrunk to four and 18 per cent. Amnesty has documented the emergence of an undisclosed quota system which has operated since July 1993. Previously, ELRs varied enormously but no longer. Since 1993 they have never gone higher than 23 per cent.

It is only two years since ministers passed the last Asylum Act. Then they were promising the new procedures would remove delays by providing for "prompt and fair" decisions. Ministers claimed initial decisions would be taken within four weeks and appeals within three months. That was the rhetoric; the reality is that initial decisions are now taking eight months and appeals a further 10 months. That is the reason why the social security bill for refugees has risen so dramatically. There is a solution: recruit more appeal adjudicators and make the initial decision-takers more efficient. Instead, ministers have removed further safeguards which are essential if those fleeing from persecution are to be protected.

Bishops, peers and refugee agencies have all been speaking out against the new regulation. They are a powerful alliance. Pictures of soup kitchens and emergency shelters will be even more powerful. The churches and charities which are setting up emergency support services should maintain their pressure on ministers. John "One Nation" Major is reported to be wooing the Tory left. He could make no better start than by scrapping this racist and regressive measure.

Publish and be shamed

Whitehall dodged the permissiveness of the 1960s

BEING ECONOMICAL with the truth was a common practice long before the phrase was coined by a Cabinet secretary. The latest instalment of 30-year-rule papers includes a fine example by an earlier occupant of the position. Sir Burke Trend reported to Harold Wilson in 1965 that the BBC's The War Game gave a realistic impression of a nuclear attack which might cause public alarm if it were seen. But if the government decided to ban the film "on grounds of public policy", he murmured, the Corporation "might be persuaded" to take full responsibility for not showing it. The film was suppressed for 20 years.

Patrick Gordon-Walker, the ex-foreign secretary sent on a phoney fact-finding mission to Southeast Asia, sums up in brilliant Humphrey-speak: "We should search for a policy which, while backing America loyally, allows us a certain more apparent independence of view."

Many of these documents reflect the dual ambiguities which enmeshed the Wilson government. Abroad, Britain in Dean Acheson's famous phrase had lost an empire but not yet found a role. White rebellion in Rhodesia sharpened the point: Labour ministers feared to send troops against "kith and kin" and lobbied in New York against UN involvement. It was argued that the US would punish Britain if it spoke out on Vietnam — the so-called lesson of Suez. At home Labour soon discovered the difficulties of running the economy after years of Tory rule with a suspicious City and hostile Bank. How to reconcile socialist goals with capitalist reality was already becoming a divisive dilemma although masked for some time by the "white heat of technology". So much has changed since the Britain of the Beatles and the "permissive society" — and of full employment — that it seems much longer than three decades. Public respect for those in government has also slumped dramatically, causing much lament by those who are now less respected. These documents prompt the question: are standards of official truth really any higher now than then, and must we wait another 30 years to find out?

The wrong sort of capital gain

Why do the rich deserve windfall gains more than the poor?

THE BISHOP of Wakefield may regard a £33 million "roll over" lottery win next Saturday as obscene. Yet it is a curious hypocrisy of modern life that we are more willing to entrust the rich with the burden of fortuitous winnings than the poor. Thousands of well-heeled people regularly receive dowries, legacies and other unearned capital gains from the stock markets without ever arousing national outrage. But the image of one of the nation's poor finding that £33 million has fallen out of the sky seems too much to bear. Goodness, they won't know how to handle it, they might go to pieces.

of us will get an electricity rebate, followed by a tax-free Tessa bonus, followed over the next 18 months by a succession of windfall capital gains because we happen to have lodged money with friendly societies years ago. Meanwhile, directors of privatised utilities have made a career out of awarding themselves unearned increases in income and capital.

Lottery winnings at least have a democratic legitimacy which other windfall gains don't have. All participants voluntarily pay over their money knowing that each ticket has an equal chance, however remote, of making a dream come true. The lottery despite its Thatcherite values is John Major's achievement and may be his most lasting fiscal success. But even he must feel a little uneasy at the way that his majority in parliament seems to go down as the lottery winnings go up. Is someone trying to tell him something?



Letters to the Editor

Tricky by-pass operation

YOUR leader on the Newbury by-pass (What great transport debate!, December 28) comes close to endorsing the myth that new roads are responsible for extra traffic. This is like saying that rivers create floods. The truth is that the environment of towns such as Newbury and Bath is destroyed by road traffic which has nowhere else to go.

The biggest mistake in post-war road planning is to be found in the lack of motorways connecting Bristol and the Midlands directly with Southampton. Such missing links force road vehicles through towns not designed to absorb them. The second biggest mistake is to put the costs of rail passenger and goods traffic beyond the reach of car owner and transport company. My home overlooks the combing A4/A36 through Bath. It also stands beside the Bristol to London and Bristol to Portsmouth main railway. There is full of articulated lorries delivering goods to London, Portsmouth, Southampton and the continent. I can see dozens of passenger trains, but hardly ever a goods train. Why?

The Battle of Newbury, as with the Battle of Solisbury Hill at Bath, is fought on mistaken ideology. We need a combined road/rail strategy and we are simply not going to get one. As long as buying and running a car is equated with material and sexual success, people will continue to jam our towns and village roads every bank holiday, and the need for a by-pass for each roadblock will continue. Denis Lovelace, 12 Vernon Terrace, Bath BA2 3DA.

YOUR assertion that building the Newbury by-pass is filling in a dotted line for the sake of completeness misses the point that networks are at their most effective when complete. An effective transport network is needed to enable UK companies to compete, nationally and internationally. This competitiveness is dependent on effective supply chains with efficient transport helping to compress the time it takes to turn a bundle of raw materials into a consumer sale. Transport adds value to all products by giving them the utility of place; but with 50 times as many cars as goods registered, what is the real cause of congestion?

Pressure points such as Newbury and Birmingham add greatly to the cost of doing business, which is reflected in the price of products. They are also disincentives for companies to locate away from their main markets, which harms employment prospects and regional development. Newbury deserves a by-pass that takes account of the environmental impact. But this needs to be done within the context of an effective national transport strategy, which includes an environmental policy. Currently, the Government regards this as interference, and the importance it gives to Transport is demonstrated by the Transport Secretary's average tenure of less than one year. Les Beaumont, 26 Smyth Close, Brindley, Lancs PR6 8NW.

Full honours

CLAIRE Rayner is wrong. (Comment page, January 1). There is no honour in "honours", from this or any other government. When a good person like Claire Rayner (or Paul Foot's father, Hugh Foot) is awarded one, it honours the giver, not the receiver. Claire Rayner OBE and Lord Canadian's lowered, not raised, by such a title. Anna Freeman, 3 Hartwell Grove, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.



These pollution tests stink

I AM one of the 48,500 lucky people who had the emission levels of their vehicles checked during the summer (Roadside emission tests to police station, December 28). Perhaps next time somebody will remember to inform police stations of their plans. My penalty for having a marginally unacceptable level was to be served with a prohibition notice. I had to arrange for a full MOT, which included written details of the new acceptable level, and take the evidence in person to a "main" police station within seven days whereupon I would be presented with a "removal of prohibition" notice. I followed these instructions to the letter. After a 90-minute wait at Winchester police station, it transpired that not only had the staff never heard of the requisite form, but they didn't even know the tests were being carried out. Second time around, we can no doubt assume that the left hand will know what the right hand is doing? Chris Hill, 6 The Terrace, Damerham, Fordingbridge, Hants.

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Robbed of our peace of mind (not forgetting jewels and cash)

ON ARRIVING home from a week abroad, my family and I were faced with the shock of having had our house broken into, ransacked and burgled — according to the police, twice. Among the items stolen, we lost our personal computer with my whole PhD thesis, in its final phase, all the family's jewellery, various pieces of equipment, money saved by my adolescent daughter for eight years, and all my husband's personal and professional documents, his Brazilian passport, his Spanish birth certificate, his medical-school diploma, his working registration — you name it.

The police came over many times and took fingerprints on glossy surfaces, but with very little hope of success. We were told by one of the PCs that ours had been the 17th burglary in the area on the weekend before Christmas, and would be around the 1,600th in Highbury in 1995. Interestingly, none of my neighbours knew about those figures; they complain that hardly ever is anything mentioned with due seriousness by the media concerning the true level of crime and violence, apart from the usual racist remarks about South London.

A very important part of our lives was gone with the burglary. No money can buy back rings inherited from a great-uncle, dead long ago, and bits and pieces of jewellery which had been in the family for generations; a diploma cannot be issued a second time; intellectual materials (not strictly kept on disc) will have to be produced again. Vulnerability, frustration, anger and impotence do not fly out of the window as quickly as our belongings did. Mind you, we are Rio de Janeiro people, third-world citizens, who had never before experienced a burglary. Just like none of our relatives and friends ever had. Maybe that is why we are over-reacting and not able to deal with it with the necessary distance and rationality. Cyana M Leashy-Dios, Aubert Park, London N5.

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A village affair World disservice

I AM sorry that nobody from the Guardian had the courtesy to contact me before writing an exceedingly inaccurate article (Cotswold village says novelist's comparison with Moss Side is pure fiction, January 1). I suspect there was a very justified fear that knowledge of the actual facts would spoil a colourful hearsay story.

YOUR leader (December 28) rightly castigates the Government for squandering one of its few remaining assets, the BBC World Service. It is high time that it was separated from the Foreign Office. Some years ago, the World Service had to suspend its service in Spanish directed at Spain, a country with many Anglophiles. The cost represented one per cent of the FC's expenditure in Spain — the sort of figure achievable by turning off the lights in the Embassy and Consulates. Another cut in the November budget is for overseas aid. Britain's proportion is already well below that of other Western countries, although Baroness Chalker claims that it goes to deserving causes and is better "targeted", in politicspeak. Now deserving causes will have to go without and the target level had fallen.

I made the speech referred to seven weeks ago (not "yesterday"), to an audience of under 30 people. It lasted less than five minutes. If anyone from the Guardian had troubled to read what I said, the text was freely available; they would have seen that it was in fact a strong plea for the Haves of Gloucestershire (of whom there are many) to help the Have Nots (of whom there are considerably more). I used the parallel of Moss Side purely as a shock tactic, to jolt the well-to-do inhabitants of the Cotswolds out of any misapprehension they may still have that anywhere as physically lovely as this county is somehow magically immune to the increasing ills of late-20th-century life. Joanna Trollope, c/o Peters Fraser and Dunlop, 503-1 The Chambers, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 0XF.

Another cut in the November budget is for overseas aid. Britain's proportion is already well below that of other Western countries, although Baroness Chalker claims that it goes to deserving causes and is better "targeted", in politicspeak. Now deserving causes will have to go without and the target level had fallen. The Tories boast that "in foreign affairs, Britain punches above its weight". Is this how they do it? W R Holmes, 222 Kirkdale, London SE26 4SB. Please include a full postal address, even an e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number.

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: In the upper room of the village hall is a long, wooden box containing a banner. We were told of its existence by a life-time resident. It proved to be in fine condition, five feet square, dark blue, with elaborate silver scrolls applied to its surface. The top scroll bears the word "Strength". Underneath that is another scroll with the word "and" leading to the central, oval panel, on which is painted a firm handshake. The hand on the left clearly belongs to a worker; the wrist shows a rough, check shirt. The hand on the right belongs to the gentry, with stiff, white shirt-cuff, gold cufflink, and the end of a dark, tailored sleeve. Below this panel are more scrolls with the words "to Horstington Friendly Society". The banner hangs from a horizontal pole, and there are two tall standards topped with brass spearheads, which attach at either end. There is a holster for one of the two standard-bearers who paraded at the annual festival or "Club Walking" with the Band. The

banner was wrapped in a copy of the Western Gazette dated April 13, 1934. The unemployment level had fallen from 22 per cent to 19 per cent. A leader says that it is undesirable to introduce any form of public lottery, and is anxious about blackshirts parading in country districts. The banner shows that our Friendly Society was one of those in which the association of working men was patronised by the gentry. People remember the squire as president. Surviving "check-books" record monthly payments in 1925 of two shillings, and the outgoings indicate traditional Friendly Society purposes of "securing by voluntary subscription of the members separate funds for the mutual relief of the members in sickness, old age and infirmity." The Act of 1793, from which these words come, notes that the Societies have the other advantage of "diminishing the public burden". We hope to discover more and preserve the banner in a dignified setting. JOHN VALLINS

The lease you can do, Mr Major

WHILST the freehold housing market may well be experiencing a long-awaited upturn, there is a growing crisis in the leasehold property market (PM urges new curbs on landlords, December 29). Leasehold owners are increasingly finding their leases unsaleable as confidence in the leasehold system plummets due to the systematic abuse of leases by predatory freehold management companies. These freeholders are threatening thousands of families with homelessness and the leasehold property market with collapse.

The country are finding that they are paying twice for their homes: once for their mortgage and then again to these freeholders by way of inflated service-charge bills. Unscrupulous freehold companies are buying large portfolios of freeholds and turning enormous profits through overpricing or indeed inventing maintenance costs. In many cases, their purpose is not just to profit from inflated service charges, but financially to ruin their leaseholders so they can demand forfeiture of the lease and re-sell. The Government must strengthen the rights of leaseholders. To date, discussion of the housing market has centred around interest rates and building-society repossession. The Government must fulfil its promise to bring this feudalism to an end. Michael G P Shryane, 28 Vereker Road, London W14 9JS.

دوريات 1995

Washington Diary

Maureen Dowd

All through college, we wore the same thing every day: Indian cotton shirts and bell-bottom jeans.

So imagine my chagrin, once I finally got in a position to afford a decent set of man-about-town sweats.

If you actually relax, as your body likes to do once it gets into weekend clothes, it could get dicey.

Men have become so confused that GQ has devoted its January issue to helping them "ramp up" to the weekend.

What has the free world come to when professionals have to be instructed not to wear dirty clothes to the office?

But the trend has spread from IBM to the White House, where Bill Clinton has instituted the first dress-down presidency.

Every Friday would be Formal Day. Men could wear black tie, velvet smoking jackets, ascots, riding breeches, bespoke suits.

It's a dandy idea, because if we're going to have sartorial competitions, we may as well look good doing it.

Sorting out the right crackpots

Commentary Hugo Young

EMMA NICHOLSON is an admirable woman but not a serious politician. Her defection is a dramatic gesture.

There is such a thing as serious defection, even in the unwelcome world of politics.

hard to talk to the Tory right these days without discovering that their new hero is Newt Gingrich.

After a Labour victory, which would be a disaster for the Tory right, it will have a model. It's

namely the judgment that President Clinton may be re-elected. Six months ago, hardly a single pundit gave Clinton a chance.

Ms Nicholson has opted out of the only battle she was ever likely to influence

slash programmes for the poor, privatise Medicare, cut government research, abolish environmental controls and cut tax for the very rich.

with their puritanical certitudes, believe.

What America may be proving, in other words, is that dogmatic extremism has not met its historic destiny after all.

The struggle to define it will be played out in the Tory Party as crucially as anywhere.

Five Tory MPs are about to retire from politics. Most of them come from the pre-Thatcher generation.

Weather is nobler in the mind



Catherine Bennett

IN WINTER, if memory serves, the weather is often a little cold. But perhaps I'm mistaken.

And apparently this habitual chilliness is nothing new. Those Magi had a notoriously cold coming of it.

Given our current, inexhaustible interest in climatic variation it seems a pity that Shakespeare made so little of this atmospheric aside.

allowed our Cassandra to sustain their hysteria.

Now that the coldness is somewhat abated, the forecasters are resuming their usual tone of disappointment.

"It is commonly observed," wrote Samuel Johnson, "that when two Englishmen meet, I'm afraid" will be delivered in identical tones.

It may have been expected that our more technologically advanced insulation from the extremes of wet and cold would allow us, as Johnson hoped, to live more independently of our climate.



Royalty lingers on

From this week, a new copyright law will hit concerts, school plays and 99p classic books. John Ezard laments a blow to high-quality culture

URGENTLY circulating in the Sobo office of the Performing Right Society's life, but changes, restricts and almost certainly, depletes the cultural life of Britain.

musical culture. It catches scores of school and college set texts.

So new and little known is the measure that the process for agreeing and levying royalties will take time to unscramble.

An early, provisional estimate is that the move will add \$1 million a year to publishing and performing costs.

MISERY and turmoil are the reactions so far from the Publishers' Association, which — already hit by the collapse of the Net Book Agreement — is resigned to fewer new editions and adaptations.

New Internationalist magazine

John doesn't get it

SO HE DOESN'T KNOW that free market economics is making poor people poorer, he doesn't see the connection between personal greed and the state we're in, and he doesn't understand that helping yourself can be at the expense of others.

Each month we tackle one subject in depth. It could be AIDS or the James Hunt, Human Rights or Hunger.

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Finance Guardian

Hotels group uses cash from roadside restaurant sale to give shareholders incentive to shun predator

Forte's £500m sweetener

Ian King

FORTE, the besieged hotels group, will today announce a £500 million defence package for shareholders, raising the stakes in its fight to stave off Granada's hostile £3.3 billion bid.

businesses, which include the Happy Eater, Little Chef and Welcome Break chains. Granada — which claims to have buyers lined up for Welcome Break, but which intends to keep Happy Eater and Little Chef — has calculated that a special dividend of 50p per share would cost Forte around £500 million.

Meanwhile, Forte stepped up its attack on Granada yesterday, repeating its claim that the group is an unfocused collection of unrelated businesses. Sir Rocco Forte, Forte's chairman and chief executive, said Granada's shares had been derated because the market regarded the company as a conglomerate.

He said Granada's bid would leave it with debts of £3.6 billion, exposing its "unrelated" businesses to unacceptable risk at a time of declining market share and increasing competition. He went on: "Granada say that they are a focused business. We thought that we would remind shareholders

just how widely Granada's activities sprawl, as well as putting some questions which they've yet to answer." But Granada hit back, insisting that even with the debts associated with a takeover of Forte, its strong cash-flow would be sufficient to cover interest repayments four times — better, it said,

than Forte had managed in recent years. A spokeswoman added: "As for the argument that we are a conglomerate, we would say Granada is a true leisure company with businesses geared to the 21st century."

Notebook

A bad case of Euro-sclerosis



David Gow

EMMMA NICHOLSON'S defection to the Liberal Democrats, reducing John Major's parliamentary majority to three, opens up the prospect of a general election this year. Unless the Prime Minister soldiers on, like his Labour predecessors in the 1970s, it will be an ugly campaign dominated by the issue of the much-scorned euro.

(this meeting is designed to discuss reform of EU institutions but, at heart, its central purpose is to provide a definitive answer to the question of German power.)

Germany — condemned as the historian Hans-Peter Schwarz puts it to be the central power of Europe — is itself in the midst of the potentially explosive debate about that question. Should it — as Helmut Kohl, architect of its unification, believes — renounce a large portion of that sovereignty and its central power of Europe — is itself in the midst of the potentially explosive debate about that question. Should it — as Helmut Kohl, architect of its unification, believes — renounce a large portion of that sovereignty and its central power of Europe — is itself in the midst of the potentially explosive debate about that question.

Egon Ronay fears for motorists' stomachs if Granada sets standard

EGO N Ronay, the guardian of the nation's culinary standards, will tonight wade into the debate over Forte's future with an outspoken attack on the quality of catering at Granada's service stations.

worried that the quality of food sold at Britain's motorway service stations will decline if Granada wins the battle for Forte. The only motorway service station to win praise from Mr Ronay's recent survey was Forte's Welcome Break chain, which Granada would sell to comply with takeover rules.

tested one in 10 of Britain's service stations, is concerned at this prospect. He warns: "The best food along the motorways might end up in the camp of some of the worst." The comments, which will come as a blow to Granada boss Gerry Robinson, are due to be broadcast on BBC-2's Food and Drink programme tonight.

Meanwhile, Labour's transport spokesman, Brian Wilson, has said Labour will consider introducing competition at individual service station sites as a means of maintaining standards — something Mr Ronay has campaigned for. At present, service stations are under no obligation to comply with food quality standards.

Slow growth set to thwart Tory hopes

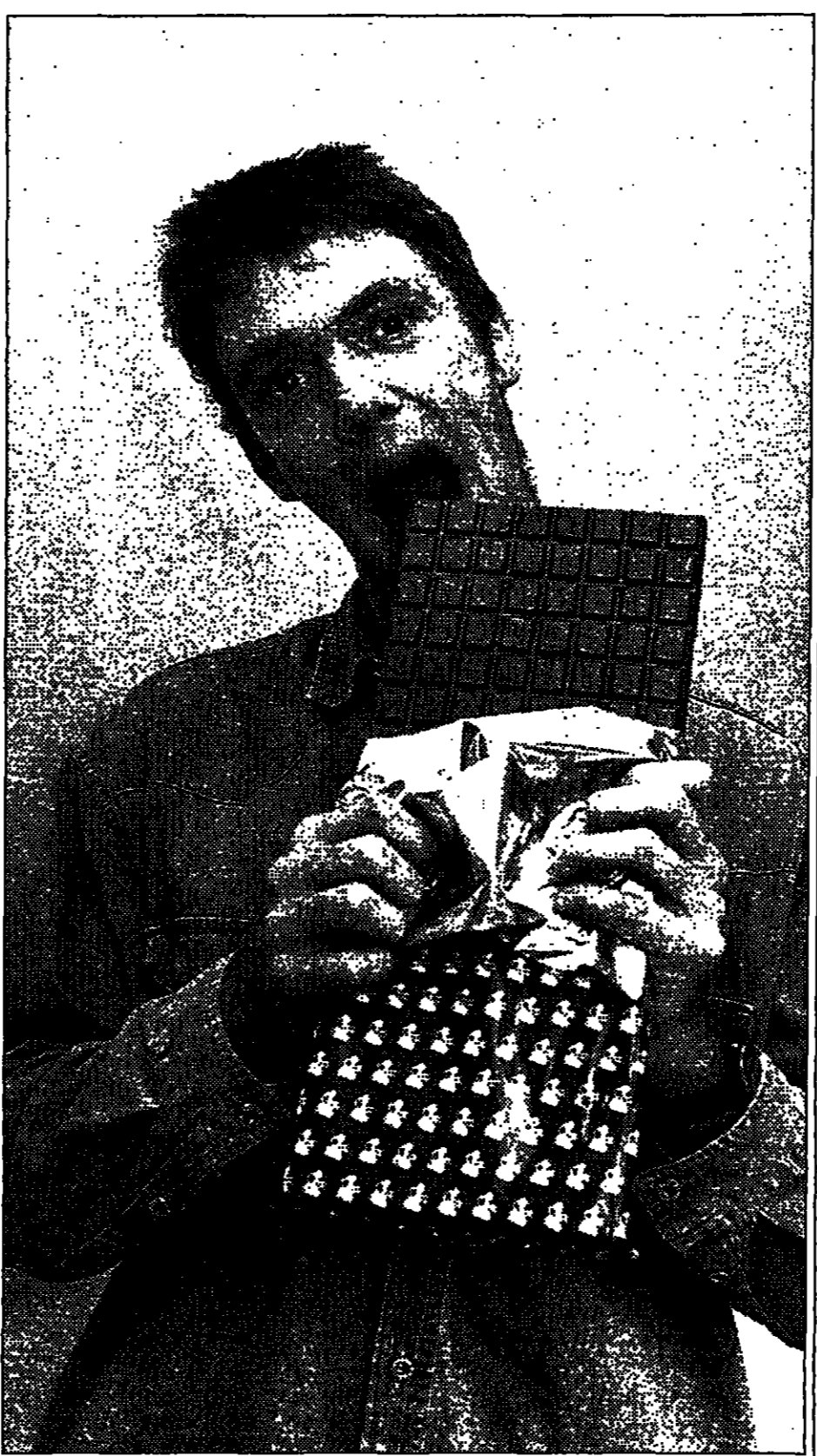
Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

GOVERNMENT hopes that a strengthening economy will underpin political recovery over the coming year are set to be frustrated by a slowdown in growth, according to a forecast released today.

Although the group foresees strong activity in 1997, this may be too late to have any real bearing on the outcome of the general election, which has to take place by May 1997.

It adds that inflation is set to remain low for the rest of the century. The headline (all-items) inflation rate is set to fall this year as a result of cheaper mortgages, while the underlying measure (excluding the cost of home loans) should remain unchanged.

According to the Cambridge Econometrics model, the all-items RPI will grow by 2.6 per cent in 1996, then by about 3.5 per cent to 2000. De-stocking by parts of industry is forecast to keep price pressures in check, and Cambridge Econometrics singles out motor vehicles, chemicals and the brick industry as sectors where inventories have risen in response to weak demand.



Elections will also take place in other European Union countries including Italy and Spain. But in both these, by sharp contrast, the mood will be upbeat and pro-European, as they debate the means — but not the goal — of joining the core vanguard of EU members in the rush to monetary union.

But in the UK, as a growing number of perspicacious business leaders realise, the election, if it comes, will be wrapped in the Union Jack. Mr Major long ago set out the twin central themes of his campaign: defence of the Union against so-called separatist tendencies in, above all, Scotland, and, intimately related, the proclamation of the nation-state, unreformed and still shrouded in ancient myths like parliamentary sovereignty as the crown of collective identity.

WHAT deeply alarms much UK business opinion is that these considerations cut little ice in British government circles. Underlying the recent CBI poll, showing a healthy majority in favour of Emu, was a widespread fear of being left behind, and of losing even residual influence in a Europe that will inevitably be dominated by its biggest nation, Germany.

Housing revival forecast

Larry Elliott

THE housing market is set to emerge slowly from its six-year recession in 1996 as lower mortgage rates rekindle demand for property, according to a range of new year predictions.

prices to rise by 2 per cent in 1996, with NatWest bank pencilling in a rise of between 2 per cent and 3 per cent. Claran Barr, economist with City firm Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said that the latest evidence pointed to a trough in the housing market last summer, followed by a slow rise in activity in the second half of 1995.

Mr Barr added that higher activity was expected to be reflected in gently appreciating house prices, with a rise of 2.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1996, followed by a 4 per cent increase in 1997.

Pension funds recover but fail to match the market

Ian King

BRITISH pension fund managers produced a healthy 19 per cent return during 1995, but still underperformed the market by 5 per cent, according to a survey published today.

per cent was produced — but still fell disappointingly short of the 34 per cent return provided by UK equities as a whole. However, the finding most likely to be highlighted by the pensions industry is that despite underperforming the market as a whole last year, British pension funds have done well to stay ahead of inflation by an average 7 per cent over the last 20 years.

stock market, which produced a return of 34 per cent, and overseas government bonds, which returned 21 per cent on the back of falling interest rates worldwide.

£116,000 Tadpole pay-off

Ian King

TADPOLE Technology, the crisis-hit company which makes notebook computers, gave its former director Geoffrey Burr a £116,000 pay-off after he resigned last May, according to the group's annual report.

News of the pay-off will outrage thousands of small investors who lost heavily on Tadpole. The shares were priced at 65p when the company was floated on the stock market in 1992, but shot up to a peak of 440p in autumn 1994, helped by over-optimistic profit forecasts from City brokers.

Firms face 'hidden tax'

Simon Beavis

LABOUR has stepped up its campaign to expose the Government's mishandling of the taxation system, by warning that Treasury plans to rush in a new self-assessment scheme would mean a hidden tax rise of nearly £1 billion for employers.

Promising that Labour would use forthcoming debates on the Finance Bill to delay the planned start of the new system in April 1997, Mr Smith accused the Government of trying to conceal the new scheme's complications and hidden costs to taxpayers and employers.

He said the bill arose because profits were to be assessed on a current rather than a previous year basis, and because personal allowances would be set against current year profits rather than those for the preceding year.

Heathrow still busiest airport for the jet set

Financial staff

HEATHROW remains by far the busiest international airport, easily outstripping its nearest rivals, according to the latest figures. The airport, on the west of London, is poised to handle 625,000 passengers on international non-stop flights in the week beginning January 15.

New year starts with a whimper

This week
Paul Murphy

THE new year gets off with a whimper rather than a bang in terms of companies reporting, with just a small handful of second liners due to produce figures.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS			
Australia 2.02	France 7.36	Italy 2.410	Singapore 2.14
Austria 15.05	Germany 2.19	Malta 0.536	South Africa 2.50
Belgium 44.20	Greece 364.10	Netherlands 2.415	Spain 182.25
Canada 2.06	Hong Kong 11.77	New Zealand 2.31	Sweden 10.18
Cyprus 0.695	Ireland 54.65	Norway 9.57	Switzerland 1.72
Denmark 8.38	India 4.89	Portugal 226.00	Turkey 92.237
Finland 6.88	Israel 4.88	USA 1.515	

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ENGLISHMAN IS THE FIFTH 'WORLD' TITLE WINNER OF 1995

Lane's long road to a million dollars

David Davies on the impressive finish to an under-strength world championship

IN ONE of the great wind-fall wins in the history of golf, Barry Lane, eighth in the Volvo Order of Merit and 38th on the Sony World Rankings, made a million dollars on the last day of the old year.

He defeated the South African David Frost by two holes to become the inaugural winner of the Andersen Consulting World Championship of Golf, at the Grayhawk club in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Lane was representing Europe, for whose Ryder Cup team he failed to qualify this year, and he now joins Fred Couples, Davis Love III, Billy Mayfair and Frank Nobilo as players who have won the "world" something or other in the past few months.

The Brit qualified for the final of this extraordinarily convoluted event by defeating Sam Torrance two and one at La Moraleja in Madrid in May, Bernhard Langer and Severiano Ballesteros in one day at The Oxbow in July, and Japan's Masayuki Amoto by two holes at Grayhawk on December 30. He wins \$660,000, Frost \$330,000

and Mark McCumber, beaten by Frost, \$230,000 for beating Kuranomoto (\$200,000) in the third-place play-off.

Lane was always ahead in the 36-hole final and completed the first 18 in an approximate 67 to Frost's 71. However, that gave him only a one-hole lead and, although he extended that to two up after 27 holes, they were level after 31. But Lane birdied the difficult par-four 15th, where a huge canyon awaits anything hit to the right, and survived the water-strawed short 17th as well.

This hole features an island green, a fashion set by Pete Dye with his notorious watery grave of a hole, the 17th at the Tournament Players Club in Jacksonville, Florida. At Grayhawk they ask for a tee shot of no more than 125 yards, yet name the hole Dye's Drink: you are either on the green or in the water. Professionals despise such holes, for they can be made to look fools, but Lane and Frost got their pars.

The Englishman, a long hitter, went on to tie up the match with a final birdie at the 588-yard 18th. The length

of this hole renders the waterfall system to the left of the green redundant, for it is so massive that hits get anywhere near the water and it was Lane, with the shorter shot to the green, who got the four.

Of those present in Arizona, Lane was the best winner for the sponsor, Kuranomoto is not a big name even in Japan, and lies outside the top 100 in the Sony Rankings; McCumber has suffered this season from allegations of unfair play when Greg Norman refused to sign his card, saying he had illegally removed a spike-mark from his line on the green; Frost is a quiet, almost reclusive character. But Lane is outgoing and cheerful and moreover comes from Europe, giving Andersen Consulting many opportunities for further exposure.

Despite the fact that none of the leading players entered this year — no Norman, Nick Faldo, Ernie Els, Nick Faldo, Colin Montgomerie, Couples or John Montgomerie, seven of the top 10 in the world — the sponsor is repeating the exercise this year. With the finals put back to January 4-5 1997, Andersen should get a stronger entry, at least from the United States, and bring the content of the tournament more into line with its title.



Million dollar man... Lane drives at the 18th on his way to victory over David Frost in Scottsdale. PHOTOGRAPH BY J. CUBAN

Motor Racing

Stewart back in F1 with Ford power

Alan Henry on the grand plans of a former champion

FORD is expected to confirm its decision to be named Stewart Grand Prix will take over supplies of the new three-litre Cosworth-built V10 engine at the end of the coming season, supplanting the Swiss-based Sauber team as Ford's F1 standard bearer.

Stewart, now 56, retired from driving in 1973 after winning his third world title for the Surrey-based Tyrrell team. Thereafter he consolidated his position as a multi-millionaire international businessman and established a consultancy, but revived his active involvement with the sport in 1987 when he helped establish a small team to back the racing ambitions of his son Paul.

Since then Paul Stewart Racing, based in Milton Keynes, have expanded into one of the most competitive professional teams outside F1. Their most notable achievements are a hat-trick of British F3 championships, secured in 1992 by Gil de Ferran, in 1993 by Kevin Barr and in 1994 by Iain Munnings, who is now the McLaren F1 team's official test driver.

Stewart has been reticent about the recent spate of F1 rumours. "We have examined several options for the future," he admitted. "All I can say is that if we do F1 we will have to do it properly. We have no intention of getting involved in a half-hearted programme."

Indeed, the Stewart F1 team are likely to be a substantially expanded operation, with a new factory planned and an established F1 engineer already invited to lead the design team. Start-up costs are estimated at £10-15 million, with the annual operating budget thereafter, on top of the free Ford engines, being about £15 million.

No detail of sponsorship are yet known but Stewart's proven business acumen, allied to his high-profile racing image, should make the team a tempting prospect for investors.

Behind the technical challenges involved in breaking into F1 have never been more daunting. Two tall-order teams, Simtek and Pacific, were lost last year and the competitive pressure at the front of the field remains formidable.

The last successful newcomer on the scene was Jordan in 1991, who finished fifth in the constructors' championship at their first attempt, setting a daunting benchmark at which Stewart will be aiming in 1997.

Rugby Union

Tis the season to get lolly — and forget loyalty

Robert Armstrong on the impact that professionalism will soon make on the players, clubs, spectators and the England team

A TALENTED young player on the fringe of the England squad was recently offered £45,000 a year, a sports car and a subsidised flat if he would switch clubs at the end of the season. The player consulted his agent, his lawyer, his accountant and finally his club chairman, then replied: "Thanks — but no thanks."

Like many up-and-coming players in Courage League One, he was given an assurance that he would be doing himself a big financial favour by staying put. His club believe that this year the necessary money will be forthcoming to cap the rival offer and to dish out similar sums to their other top players, safeguarding

the club's competitive future. The next eight months will witness the most ruthless competition among senior clubs for the best players. A few clubs who fail to get the right financial building blocks in place will suddenly find their playing staffs decimated by cold-eyed rivals; others will play a cat-and-mouse game with the loyalties of their players.

The transfer market will hot up in early March and get into full stride by the closing weeks of the season, when relegated clubs will see their most valuable players jump ship as the seven-day registration period comes into force. Loyalty will be as rare as a leather scrum cap, as prominent businessmen

sweep away unwieldy club committees and seize power on the strength of their cheque books.

If 1995 was the year that saw the game's ruling body, the International Board, make an historic constitutional change in favour of professionalism, then 1996 will be difficult one of practical transformation. At Bath, for instance, the antiquated 27-man committee is likely to be replaced by a six-man executive that includes two paid officials and two hired fire-powers over ancillary staff.

Television, sponsors, and the players themselves will take an increasingly powerful stranglehold on the decision-making process, and many club members may find it un-

palatable. Membership fees will jump by as much as 30 per cent next season and spectators will be asked to pay £7-£10 to see a match. Low-cost rugby is already history.

Indeed, everyone who attends a match will be asked for yet more money after they have entered the ground. This season Harlequins became the first club to charge £2 for a match programme; it offered an out-of-date team sheet and minimal information. Elsewhere lottery tickets, raffles and short-term fund-raising drives, not to mention charitable donations, will test the purses and the patience of supporters.

The relationship between players and spectators will be altered, too, as the traditional tolerance of mediocre play disappears. As the England team discovered during their recent win over Western Samoa, cat-calls and the slow

hand-clap are likely to become commonplace whenever fans take the view that the professionals are not giving value for money.

High-profile club rugby will develop as a consequence of the European Cup, compelling some players to forsake the game in order to focus on their long-term careers. When the English clubs and Scottish districts enter the competition for the first time next autumn a new television audience will be exposed to the skills of Leicester, Bath and Edinburgh thanks to ITV.

The scramble for a place in Europe should rejuvenate the Courage League One, which has largely become a grim battleground on which safety-first tactics and cynical cheating tend to be more significant than scoring tries. Indeed, if the European Cup proves successful enough to warrant expansion from 20 to,

say, 32 teams next year the Courage Leagues could gradually become a second-tier competition for smaller clubs who aspire to join the elite.

Wales and Scotland will have to work hard to prevent an outflow of gifted players to the leading English clubs, or to such as Newcastle who have acquired a self-made millionaire to enable them to buy their way to the top. Still, Cardiff have shown that the trend can be reversed; they brought Jonathan Davies back from rugby league and gave Mark King a new contract that denied West Hartlepool his services as a player-coach.

England have no tour this summer, though a single Test against Australia may be staged in Sydney if a date can be fitted into the Wallabies' schedule. Short trips to the southern hemisphere for up to a fortnight are likely to be-

come the norm after June, once the Welsh and the Scots have completed their demanding one-month tours to Australia and New Zealand respectively. Argentina and Australia will be visitors to Twickenham in the autumn.

Perhaps the most intriguing question is whether Will Carling and Jack Rowell will still be in their England posts at the end of this year. The nexus of payment to players, the need to entertain and the pressure to win matches could turn out to be a burden that sinks both men.

International matches at Twickenham, which now seats 75,000, have become a complex, hard-nosed business that imposes the same demands on Rowell as the England soccer team does on Terry Venables. That is the true measure of rugby union's leap into the second half of the Nineties.

Racing

Pipe rings in the new with 129-1 hat-trick

Ken Oliver

MARTIN PIPE was happy that dense fog did not reach Exeter too early yesterday. The Somerset trainer, with the aid of stable jockey David Bridgwater, landed a 129-1 treble by taking the opening races with Cross's Delight, Lisotho and Challenger Du Luc.

Pipe said he had big plans for Challenger Du Luc after the six-year-old gave a fine display of jumping in the Win With The Tote Novice Chase. He led three fences out and stormed home by 12 lengths from The Power.

"He'll be entered for the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham as this was a hot contest. This horse has got plenty of gears and won like a real racehorse, jumping superbly all the way round," said Pipe.

Challenger Du Luc had been outpointed by Senior Ed Bettruti in his previous outing but Pipe offered no excuses adding: "That must be a very good horse too."

Lisotho, beaten a long way behind Our Kria at Newbury, paid that horse a handsome compliment by getting the better of Ocean Hawk in a ding-dong battle for the Thurlestone Hotel One Hundred Juvenile Hurdle.

Pipe had earlier started the ball rolling when sending out Cross's Delight to win the Haldon Sunday Market Sellin Hurdle by three and a half lengths from Palace Parade.

Tony McCoy, who was due to ride at Windsor until that meeting was abandoned,

came in for a winning mount on Purbeck Cavalier in the Richard Thompson 21st Birthday Celebration Novice Handicap Hurdle.

There were 12 acceptors at yesterday's rescheduled King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Sandown, with Master Oats and Young Hustler being added and Egypt Mill Princes missing from the original list.

Ladbrokes reopened their ante-post book with One Man the 2-1 market leader, followed by 4-1 Barton Bank, 9-2 Merry Gale, 11-3 Master Oats and 10-1 Dublin Flyer.

Andrew Cooper, clerk of the course at the Esber track, was in an optimistic mood yesterday, saying: "We wouldn't be racing at the moment, but things are improving daily. Certain parts of the course are still frozen because the frost has got in quite a long way."

"Certainly we need another couple of days before it is raceable, but we have got a couple of days so we have to be optimistic. The forecast is for

a gradual improvement in the weather."

Jim Dreaper, trainer of Merry Gale, has not decided whether his horse will travel over from Ireland, explaining: "There will be no decision for a day or two. The owner is keen to run and the horse has been left in the entries, but we have to consider the ground and other possible engagements."

Dreaper's decision could influence Kim Bailey's choice of jockey for Master Oats, with Merry Gale's rider, Graham Bradley, among the possible replacements for Jamie Osborne, who is claimed for Coulton.

"Master Oats is in very good form, but I won't make any decision about who rides until later in the week when I see who is available," said Bailey.

Tony Dobbin, overlooked for the ride on One Man, is to take over from Richard Dunwoody on Unguided Hurdle in the Newton Handicap Chase at Haydock on Saturday.

Lingfield all-weather Flat card with form

12.30	Forman Star	2.00	FROM N GOLD (app)
1.30	Passion Gold	3.00	Double Valentines
		3.30	Shedward

Forman Star: 12.30 Forman Star (app) 2.00 FROM N GOLD (app) 2.00 Double Valentines 3.00 Shedward 3.30

2.30	Forman Star	2.00	FROM N GOLD (app)
1.30	Passion Gold	3.00	Double Valentines
		3.30	Shedward

Forman Star: 12.30 Forman Star (app) 2.00 FROM N GOLD (app) 2.00 Double Valentines 3.00 Shedward 3.30

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Results

12.30	Forman Star	2.00	FROM N GOLD (app)
1.30	Passion Gold	3.00	Double Valentines
		3.30	Shedward

Forman Star: 12.30 Forman Star (app) 2.00 FROM N GOLD (app) 2.00 Double Valentines 3.00 Shedward 3.30

1.30

101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110

1.30

3.30

101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110

3.30

Tennis

French pair are no match for Croatia

CROATIA, the favourites, had little difficulty in beating France in the Hopman Cup mixed team tournament in Perth yesterday.

French pair Yannick Noah and Corinne Morley were outplayed by Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic and Catherine Tanvier and Arnaud Boetsch gave them a 2-0 win in the Group A round-robin match.

Ivanisevic took only 72 minutes to beat Boetsch 7-5, 6-4 without producing any of his usual big serves or aces. Morley, playing in the cup for the first time, did not have to exert herself against an opponent still recovering from surgery on her right knee and won 6-1, 6-2.

Earlier the fifth-seeded United States produced the first upset of the tournament by beating the highly fancied South Africa 2-1.

Richey Reneberg beat the world No.9 Wayne Ferreira 6-2, 6-3 to bring the match level at 1-1 after his partner, the teenager Chanda Rubin, lost 6-2, 6-4 to Amanda Coetzer. In the deciding mixed doubles Reneberg and Rubin beat the South Africans 7-5, 6-3.

In the match between Coetzer and Rubin the controversial electronic line-calling system failed, leaving the system umpire Jane Harvey to make all the calls.

Soccer

Premiership: Tottenham Hotspur 4, Manchester United 1

Armstrong gives United defence a night to forget

David Lacey

MANCHESTER United's pursuit of Newcastle at the top of the Premiership stalled last night as Tottenham Hotspur shrugged aside their own injury problems to punish the chronic weaknesses that have suddenly arisen in Alex Ferguson's defence.

minutes. Dumitrescu's second corner of the game found Sheringham rising to meet it with a header which glanced behind the outside of the net post. Then Rosen- thal fed the ball through a yawning gap to Armstrong, whose snap shot from 20 yards ricocheted off the right-hand angle.

Yet United's problems at the back persisted and led to Tottenham going back in front on the stroke of half- time. A right-wing centre from Austin, which took a steep deflection off Keane, did the damage. The strength in the air of Pallister was badly missed as Parker, though he reached the ball ahead of Sheringham, could only clear it to Campbell, who scored confidently from just beyond the penalty area.

Middlesbrough 0, Aston Villa 2

Easy for Villa as Boro's balloon hits wasteland

David Hopps

UNDER-soil heating — who needs it? Aston Villa's chairman Doug Ellis might consider abandoning his interest, after witnessing his side benefit from their enforced Christmas R & R with a victory of composure and vitality at the Riverside Stadium last night.

Walsh was the weather. Boro pinned their faith in a huge inflatable balloon — but the balloon that has popped will be of more concern. Once there, however misleadingly, they have now lost three successive matches as well as half a dozen key players through injury.

With Johnson, of course, there are also the unpredictable moments: a square pass to Spink, who admitted was in claret-and-blue but who is Villa's reserve goalkeeper and was standing over the touchline in a bulky tracksuit and cloth cap, was a collector's item.

Leeds United 0, Blackburn Rovers 0

Fans in a fog as dreary duo settle for a draw

Stephen Blorley

THE fog over Yorkshire seemed to seep into the brains of both teams at Eiland Road yesterday afternoon. Here was lack of spark and clarity in awful excess in a game that was deadly dull from start to finish with nothing to commend it other than the final whistle.

make excuses but the "too many games" argument will not do. The rest of the truth is that both teams are little more than ordinary at the moment and on this occasion they settled for the easy option.

the player to pierce the gloom but his attempts to open up play were regularly thwarted by his total inability to pass the ball straight. Probably United's best chance came, however, when the Scot was put away on the right by Speed and, for once, behind the Blackburn defence. McAl- lister duly cut the ball back to nobody. It summed up his afternoon.

"It is really not fair to the paying public to watch players who are so fatigued," said Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager. "Shearer, for example, has already played 35 games this season. Professionals will always

Yebeah responded in kind, his shot not requiring Flowers to do anything more than follow the trajectory with his eyes. Thereafter everything took a decided turn for the worse.

Leeds United: Barney, Kelly, Palmer, Deane, McAlister, Speed, Worthington, Johnson, Brolin (Widzala, 57min), Yebeah, Ford. Blackburn Rovers: Flower, Coleman, Kiattsi, Ripley, Shearer, Hargreaves, 23, Barker, 32, McLintock, Berg, Edmondson, 37, Renshaw, 41. Referee: L. Dimes (Mossley).

Cricket

England tour to SA Live Commentary 0891 22 88 28 Match Reports 0891 22 88 29

Sport

Seeing is believing for Hibs

NEW YEAR'S DAY has a habit of playing tricks on a Scotsman's mind, but those who watched Hibernian dismantle Hearts yesterday must have thought a hallucination had been slipped into their Hogsmanay jules.

during a second half of missed chances that they repaired the seemingly irrepairable. The margin of their superiority was not limited at during a first half in which all the goals were scored. Hibs even allowed the visitors to take an early lead when Pointon scored in his first Edinburgh derby.

Referee ticked off despite Whelan late show

EVERN the referee appeared bored by this four struggle in the Premiership's sedentary section. Keith Cooper blew the final whistle in the 89th minute and only restarted the game after an animated protest by Coventry's assistant manager Gordon Strachan. They played on for another 90 seconds.

Whelan's goal was rather different: he picked the ball up on the halfway line, looked up three or four times in the vain hope of finding supporting players, fell down, picked himself up, survived five tackles and despite being surrounded by three defenders found time to score with a low drive to Dave Beasant's left.

Coventry's manager Ron Atkinson said: "It was the best goal I've seen this season and I doubt whether you'll see a better one before the summer. I reckon he beat about 12 players. I was waiting for him to lay the ball off. He's done a good job for us in recent games."

showed. But Southampton play a stifling, containing game and can be difficult to break down. I was hoping we would score first and open them up a bit."

"Southampton's manager Dave Merrington's view of Whelan's goal was understandably different. "How we can let a player run from the halfway line and score is unbelievable, and it cost us two points."

Gabbiadini keeps Derby on a roll

Neil Robinson

THE weather and a crossover conspiracy to assist Derby County's rapid rise towards the Premiership yesterday. With Charlton Athletic, Birmingham City and Sunderland idle, Jim Smith's side went seven points clear at the top of the First Division after their ninth victory in 10 games.

ahead. Roberts missed twice — the first chance from three yards — and laid on two excellent opportunities for Taylor, but again the finishing was woeful. Chris Malkin equalised in the second half. Southend equalled their best unbeaten run since 1985, nine games without defeat, although there was little else of note in a turgid goalless draw with Barnsley.

Manchester City 2, West Ham United 1 Mighty Quinn stings Finn

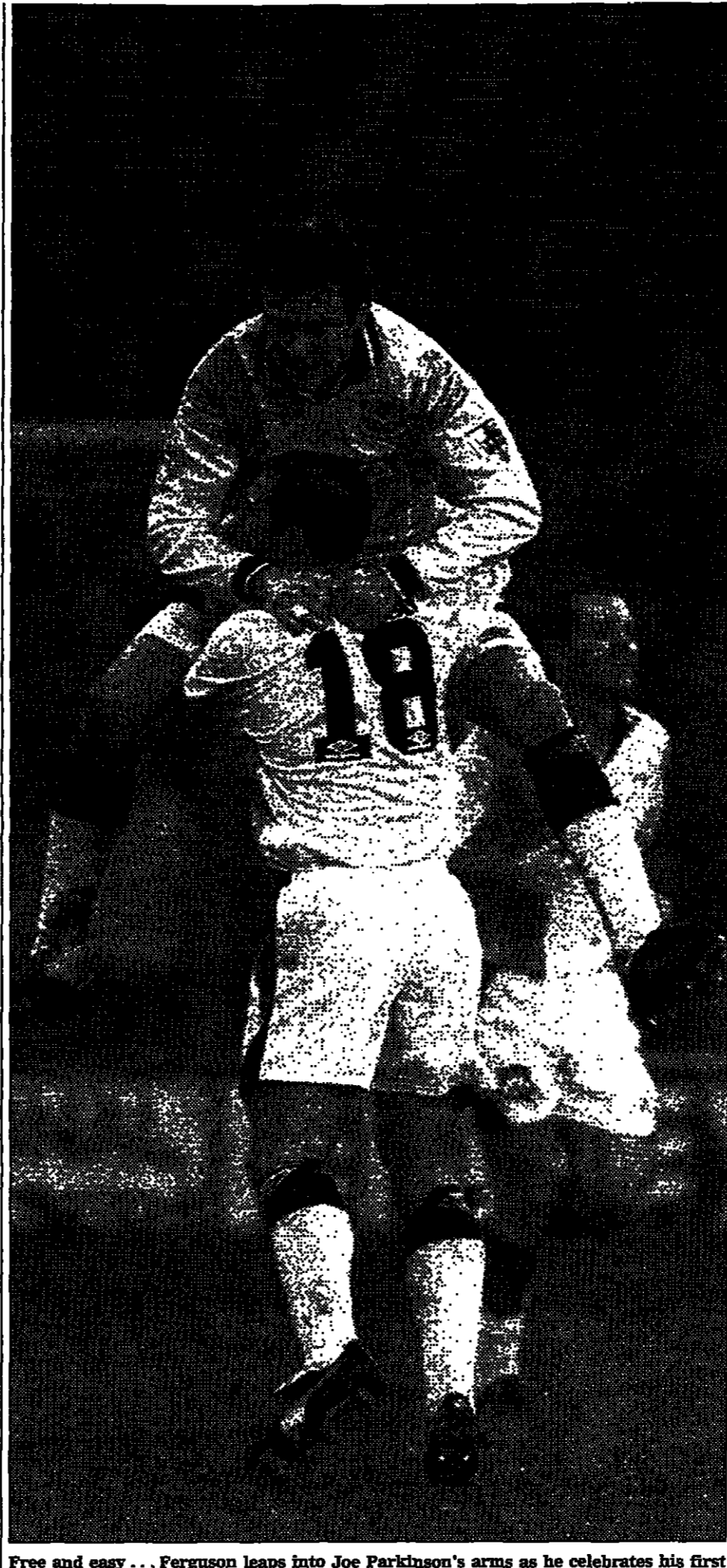
Cynthia Bateman

T HE up side was that Manchester City scored more than one goal in a match for the first time this season; the down side, that it was against a perfectly dreadful West Ham with a greenhorn in goal.

Quinn had scored only once in 14 league appearances, and the pattern looked familiar as the Irishman headed two chances wide, Summerbee missed by a mile and Rösler shot high after heading wide. When Quinn did get the ball in the net in the 21st minute it owed something to the young goalkeeper's inexperience. Brightwell's long ball was licked on by Rösler and as Quinn chased it Finn came out to challenge him on the edge of the area. But the striker got there first, clipped the stranded goalkeeper and tapped in the goal.



Quinn... double dream



Free and easy... Ferguson leaps into Joe Parkinson's arms as he celebrates his first away goals for Everton during yesterday win at Selhurst Park

Wimbledon 2, Everton 3 Ferguson pair unlocks door for Everton

Martin Thorpe

WIMBLEDON paid the price for believing their Christmas public consecutive and deserved wins at Chelsea and Arsenal, they entered the new year flat on their face.

their tenacious selves and playing 4-2-4, with Jones taking on his latest role in a busy week, this time as a right-winger. The first tangible product of the fight-back arrived on 55 minutes when Holdsworth headed in Leonhardsen's cross.

دربیت انجمن

Cricket

South Africa v England: Fifth Test

Fraser's last chance before home

Mike Selvey in Cape Town on England's one-day discards and final Test squad

ENGLAND'S World Cup plans became less opaque yesterday with the announcement that five players of the current squad will fly home immediately after the final Test and before the first of seven one-day internationals. One does not know whether to feel sympathy or pleasure for John Crawley and Mark Butcher, both of whom have been injured, for Jason Gallian, Crawley's replacement, and for the old stalwarts Devon Malcolm and Angus Fraser. Fraser is not yet out of the World Cup; his name, and those of the 17 players who will remain, have been submitted to the World Cup organisers as the broad base of the final squad. The list will be whittled down to 14 at the end of this tour — or England may decide to change it again. No one, least of all the competing countries, appears to be clear about what is binding and what is not.

In reality any member of the England party who is deprived of the opportunity to compete in the World Cup is entitled to feel disappointed, although with the exception of Fraser, and perhaps Crawley, they would all have known which way the wind was blowing. Fraser is the one who will feel it most, for although he is included in the 18, the fact that he is not being played in the one-day matches here is indicative of the thinking. This has been a disappointing tour for him. He began it as an integral part of the captain Mike Atherton's plans, only to be omitted from the side for the third Test after an indifferent first innings in Johannesburg was followed by a much more puny second. Nor, after the success of the swing bowlers in Durban, did he have a role in the thinking for the fourth Test.

Yesterday, though, Fraser was also given the opportunity to leave his mark on the tour when he was named in a squad of 13 players for the fifth and final Test which begins at Newlands today. He is almost certain to make the final 11. The big fella does not take rejection kindly and is desperate to make a success of this latest opportunity. "It has been frustrating and disappointing tour," he said yesterday. "I have not had much chance to get back, although I've worked hard in practice. No one likes to be dropped. Obviously it means people have their doubts about you and that is why they leave you out. But after a bad first innings in Johannesburg I thought I bowled well in the second and with a bit of luck could have had five wickets. Instead I was left in the lurch in Durban." There is a belief, which has broadened as the winter has progressed, that England are well past seeing the best of him and indeed that a below-par Fraser no longer remains better than most others at their peak. Increasingly he has looked cumbersome and lacking the bat-jarring nip and extra yard of pace that used to lend authority to his bowling. A dearth of action has not helped but it is probably time to move on. Yet old bowlers never die, they say, and this one is not about to go quietly. "My career has had its ups and downs but I have always had the feeling that the opposition regard me highly and are surprised when I've been left out," he said. "But I believe I'm capable of doing well at this level, and I've certainly got a point to prove." Fraser will be attempting to do so as part of a five-man attack, and to accommodate them all England will go into the match with one fewer bowler than in the previous Tests. It may seem a gamble but no one has got runs at No. 3 so they have been a batsman light in any case.

Should England adopt this strategy the fallow will be the man to go. Robin Smith will move into the position from hell and Jack Russell will step up a place. "We have been batting more consistently than at the start of the tour so we can change the policy," said Raymond Illingworth. "We've got to back them to get enough runs and they have seen plenty of the South Africa bowlers and they are able to do that." The pitch for the match has been re-laid and yesterday showed a few cracks and little grass. If it helps a spinner it is more likely to be the left-arm wrist spin of Paul Adams — playing in front of a sell-out crowd in his first Test — than an England finger spinner, namely Mike Watkinson should Richard Illingworth not prove his fitness.

Illingworth suffered an intercostal injury at Port Elizabeth in the first Test. The act of bowling but while stretching high for a caught-and-bowled chance at the end of an over that had seen two previous catches decked — and his chances of immediate recovery are slim. The inclusion of five bowlers means that Malcolm is also given the opportunity to fire on the final lap. Had there been only a four-man attack, Illingworth explained, it would not have been worth the risk of Malcolm's directional change. The two are in synch: the result could have been too horrible to contemplate. Now, however, options are open to Atherton.

Both sides are aware of the rewards, both in terms of prestige and finance, for should England win they will collect £30,000 from various sources, £10,000 less than South Africa if they are victorious. To collect, however, there will have to be rather more positive play from both sides than there was in Port Elizabeth.

ENGLAND (from): M A Atherton (capt), A Selvey, R A Smith, P T Thorne, MICK, R C Russell (w), D G Cook, M Watkinson, P M Marshall, A H F Fraser, D E Cook, W C Illingworth, J J Galley, SOUTH AFRICA (from): A Hudson, G Coetzee, W C van der Merwe, J J Galley, N Rhodes, J H Kallis, B M Mafineni, D J Richardson (w), S M Pollock, C R Matthews, A Donald, P R Adams, R Boye.



Raring to go... Devon Malcolm in the nets at Newlands yesterday PHOTOGRAPH CLIVE MASON

Changes that took the soul out of Newlands

Matthew Engel in Cape Town on the loss of the world's most beautiful ground

OVER the next few days anyone switching their radio to the cricket will be fed endless topographical and meteorological details about Cape Town and Table Mountain. You will be irritated by constantly being told about the weather in South Africa is wonderful. (At last, at the moment). You may also be told that Newlands is the most beautiful big cricket ground in the world. It is no longer true; Newlands has been redeveloped. The ground where the fifth Test starts today not only bears no resemblance to the one on which England played their last Test in Cape Town 31 years ago, it bears no resemblance to that of even three years ago. No one has moved Table Mountain but it no longer broods over the ground as magnificently as it did, because it has to compete with four new stands. Everything else has gone: the oaks, which were Newlands' motif and its glory, the plane trees on the other side, the pavilion with its Long Room, the whole ambience of the place that made it so special. "They assured everyone that it wouldn't lose its old feeling," said Richard Whittingdale, editor-in-chief of the magazine SA Cricket Action. "But as you can see, that didn't happen. It's lost its soul. I think it's disgusting." Imagine a cricket ground combining the best features of Lord's and Worcester, with Snowdon in the background as well, and you get an idea of what Newlands used to be like. (There was always a smoke-belching brewery next door but something about the product made it more acceptable than the average factory). If such a place existed in Britain, people would lie in front of the bulldozers before it was altered; here it was demolished with barely a peep. "Perhaps there has been a bit too much going on in this country for people to get worked up," said Whittingdale. The Western Province Cricket Association, which runs the ground, did have a problem. "It was still essentially a village green," said Erik van Vlaanderen, chairman of the Newlands Development Committee. "It was rustic and pretty, but backward. It was under threat as a Test venue. In any instance, people would have to wade through water to get to the ablution block at any big match. It was rather Third World."

Originally the pavilion was supposed to stay. But that is under the control of the Western Province Cricket Club, a different entity to the association, which leases most of the ground. The relationship is similar to that between the MCC and TCGB at Lord's and equally prone to tension. The club employed its own architect, who put up something unrelated to the other new buildings and vaguely derived from the Sydney pavilion. The economics of this are said to be particularly fraught. Now, with floodlights as well, Tina Turner is coming, Cliff Richard has been, so have Liverpool FC for a friendly against Cape Town Spurs. Pavarotti would have been at Newlands this week except for the Test match. Cape Town has a double barrier separating spectators from the ground, where they need to play informal lunchtime cricket.

Jones back, Boon docked

DEAN JONES has returned from his international wilderness and has been called up to Australia's preliminary 18-man squad for the World Cup beginning next month. The 34-year-old batsman last played for them on the tour to South Africa in 1994. There is no place for David Boon, who was dropped for the opening round of matches in the current World Series tournament against West Indies and Sri Lanka. Yesterday, Australia beat West Indies by one wicket when Michael Bevan struck a century to lead the visitors to 172 for nine in Sydney. © Muttiah Muralitharan has been included in Sri Lanka's World Cup squad despite doubts about the legitimacy of the off-spinner's action. AUSTRALIA SQUAD: M A Taylor, M J Gower, I A E Smith, G R Waugh, D M Jones, M G Bevan, S G Law, R T Ponting, S Lee, S B Blewett, V A Healy, P R Reifel, C J Hogg, M L Kaspryzak, D M McMillan, D W Fleming, S K Warne, T B A May.

American Football

Crockett fires his Colts Jim Harbaugh. "It was crazy the way he was running out there. That one 66-yarder was beautiful." Earlier, Brett Favre threw for 199 yards and three touchdowns as Green Bay beat Atlanta 37-20 in the NFC wild-card game. The Packers met the defending champions, the Colts, in San Francisco on Saturday. Zack was unbelievable," said the Colts' quarterback.

Results

Table with columns for Soccer, FA Cup, and various league results including Premier League, Championship, and lower divisions.

English League

Table showing results for the First Division, Second Division, and Third Division.

World Series

Table showing results for the World Series, including matches between Australia and West Indies.

Darts

Table showing results for various darts tournaments including the World Professional Championship.

Ski-jumping

Table showing results for ski-jumping events, including the World Cup standings.

Fixtures

Table listing upcoming fixtures for various sports including Soccer, Darts, and Hockey.

Rugby League

Championship: Warrington 12, Wigan 41

Tuigamala title charge

THE reason Va'anga Tuigamala joined Wigan, he says, was that he wanted to learn his adopted code from the best players available. After two years in the sport he can now conduct his own master classes. Yesterday he took time to find his feet on a tricky Wilderspool surface but ended the game with three tries, the major contributor to a victory that all but assured Wigan of their seventh successive title. Leeds' win at St Helens means the presentation cannot be held yet, but for Wigan it is a trophy they are desperate to win, not least because they will now keep the silverware. Wigan won the game emphatically, but in the first half Warrington were the more impressive side. They might have remained so for two moments of misfortune. After 33 minutes Paul Sculthorpe, 18, arguably the best forward on the pitch, limped off with a leg injury and was replaced by Andy Bennett, and Warrington's pack was never the same. Five minutes later Thurfield was unlucky to knock on and from the resultant scrum Tuigamala drove over for his first try. Wigan led 12-6, and Warrington went in justifiably feeling miffed. But Wigan effectively ended the contest in the first five minutes of the second half. O'Connor was sent to the bin for a late challenge on Ford which possibly deserved a red card rather than yellow. But even without their prop, Wigan accumulated points. Shaun Edwards celebrated his OBE with a try and a drop goal, and Paul landed his fifth goal as Wigan stretched their lead to 31-6. Paul Barrow, signed last month from Swinton, completed a good Warrington move just after the hour but in the final minutes Tuigamala, twice capitalising on Edwards' promptings, completed a powerful hat-trick. Warrington's Paddy (Kneel) 45min; Forster, Thompson, Hogg, Sculthorpe, Ford, Hillon (Kneel), Thurfield, Chambers, Barrow, Knott (Hadden), 57i. Sculthorpe, Hogg, Hillon, Barrow, Tuigamala, Conroy, Robinson, Tuigamala, Radcliffe, Smyth, Paul (Cramp), 57i. Hillon, Hogg, Sculthorpe, Hillon, 73i. Hill, O'Connor, Quinnett, Cassidy (Johnson), 83i. Haughton, Cassidy (Johnson), 83i. Pringle (Castledorf).

Leeds keep on winning but will have to settle for second spot

ASSET of the most unlikely results could still give Leeds the Centenary Championship, but they will be content now to settle for runners-up spot, writes Paul Fitzpatrick. Their 20-14 win at St Helens was their fourth league win in succession. Saints were flattered to be level at half-time but tries from Innes and Hall in the second half put a truer reflection on the contest. A Gibbs try converted by Goulding brought the score to 14-16 with minutes remaining but Shaw's try gave Leeds victory. Sheffield Eagles are on an even bigger roll than Leeds and their win at Castleford was their eighth in succession. The Colts upset the defending AFC champions San Diego 35-20 in the last wild-card play-off. Crockett, filling in for the injured Marshall Faulk, scored two touchdowns on runs of 33 and 68 yards after a regular season in which he had only one carry and gained no yards. "Zack was unbelievable," said the Colts' quarterback.

Sport in brief

Summary of various sports news including soccer, darts, and other international events.

Teamtalk advertisement for The Independent News Reports Service, featuring a list of sports teams and contact information.

SportsGuardian

MERSEYSIDERS FIGHT BACK TO TAKE SIX-GOAL THRILLER

Premiership: Liverpool 4, Nottingham Forest 2

Collymore haunts Forest

Ian Ross

SO BLACK was November for Liverpool that it is unlikely they will win a first Championship in six years, but if nothing else they will continue to make life uncomfortable for the Uniteds of Newcastle and Manchester.

This was glorious stuff: majestic flowing football, goals aplenty and, above all, skill. Liverpool were two goals adrift after only 19 minutes yet by the time the skies above Anfield darkened they had inflicted only the third Premiership defeat of the season on Nottingham Forest.

As ever, Forest's game plan held nothing more ambitious or adventurous than the rudimentary counter-attack. It is an unassuming strategy but when implemented correctly — or, as yesterday, beautifully — it is effective enough to dismantle the most proficient defence.

In the absence of the injured Mark Wright, Liverpool's back line was, initially at least, anything but proficient, and there was no hint of cohesion until Forest's attacks eventually became predictable.

A sense of disarray which often seemed to verge on panic was so pronounced that Forest led by two goals with barely a fifth of the game gone. In no way did it flatter them.

Both goals served to re-emphasise that simple is best, and, as Forest have proved in the European arena, they are the best at keeping it simple.

Liverpool held out for 13 minutes and that was to be applauded, so irresistible and precise was Forest's early football. Then Steve Stone's perfect left-foot drive, delivered after Ian Woan's pass had undone the sleepy defence, put Forest in front.

Five minutes on and the



Taking it in his stride... Stan Collymore gets the better of Mark Crossley and slides home Liverpool's decisive third goal. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

beachhead had seemingly become a fortress. Again Forest did no more than prod hopelessly at Liverpool's soft underbelly, finding himself standing in splendid isolation on the byline, Paul McGregor nonchalantly rolled his cross into the path of Woan, who

could not have missed had he tried. From a Liverpool perspective all seemed lost. The ray of hope which lay at the end of the long tunnel flickered rather than burned, deserted by their form, their most inviting option appeared to be

the salvaging of pride, not points. And then, as swiftly as they had disappeared into the enterprise-free zone, Liverpool emerged to grab the afternoon by the throat and shake it until it rattled. Of course the architect of

Forest's downfall was Stan Collymore. The striker has spent considerably more time planting seeds than pulling up trees since his summer move between the clubs, but he clearly has more friends on Merseyside than he does in the Nottingham area; predictably the tiny pocket of Forest supporters baited him with cries of "Judas, Judas".

Forest's manager Frank Clark criticised his defence. "We could have actually gone 3-0 up at one stage but the way we defended today even that wouldn't have been enough," he said. "It was as if at 2-0 we suddenly sat back and thought, 'We can win this'. We were a shambles late on in the opening half. My back five has won us games this season but they simply didn't do well enough today."

In the first half Liverpool's £8.5 million investment had provided Robbie Fowler with two goals in 10 first-half minutes: two sublime crosses, two precise headers. Then, just after the hour, Collymore himself appeared to have contributed the afternoon's final chapter when he made much of Steve Chettle and Mark

Crossley's hesitancy to slide in Liverpool's third and decisive goal.

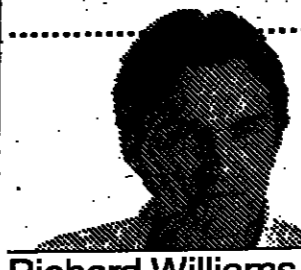
However, in true pantomime style, with only four minutes remaining Collymore succeeded in stealing his own thunder, delivering the low cross which Colin Cooper turned into his own net.

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Liverpool: James, McAtee, Bath, Szalai, Harrison, Jones, McManaman, Barnes, Thomas, Collymore, Fowler. Nottingham Forest: Crossley, Lytle, Cooper, Chettle, Pearce, Stone, Hasland, Bar-Williams, Hoan, Campbell, McGregor (Roy, 75 min). Referee: P Alcock (Rothw). Photo: Michael Steele

Nice T-bone, how about a lapel pin?



Richard Williams

SO ANSWER me this: if you had to nominate someone to take a penalty kick that would save your life, would you choose Eric Cantona or Marco Pierre White?

And if your loved one's life depended on the successful outcome of a soufflé, which of them would you elect? Easy.

So the existence of the Official All Star Café, which opened in New York a week before Christmas, must say something strange and interesting about our culture; in particular, about the peculiar way we extend the use of those whom we make stars into unrelated fields.

Not long ago, Times Square was the sinkhole of Manhattan: a burnt-out neon hell of hustlers and porn cinemas, where you didn't linger too long in front of the cut-price electronic goods store because the man standing next to you had a Travis Bickle look in his eye.

Things are changing. Now the neon shines cheerfully, the sidewalks are clean, the movie theatres are showing *Pocahontas* rather than *The Devil in Miss Jones*, and up above the junction of 48th Street and Broadway a huge sign gleams with the images of three men in sports gear and the message: "Come dine with us!"

The men are Joe Montana, the former quarterback of the San Francisco 49ers, Shaquille O'Neal, the 7ft star of the Orlando Magic, and Wayne Gretzky, hero of the Los Angeles Kings. Together with the tennis champions Monica Seles and Andre Agassi and baseball's Ken Griffey Jr and Dwight Gooden, these are the partners behind the Official All Star Café.

THEY were all there on opening night in a crowd of 2,000 that also numbered Stevie Wonder, Brooke Shields, Whoopi Goldberg and Spike Lee. At some point during the evening, Gretzky told a New York Times reporter solemnly that he planned to eat there whenever he was in town. But two days later, when I took the elevator up from the street level to the second floor, the only

sign of Gretzky — or Montana or O'Neal — was on the billboard outside.

Not that I'd been expecting to slide into a booth next to Andre and Brooke. That would be about as realistic as queuing for a hamburger at the Hard Rock Café in the expectation of an impromptu jam featuring Jimi Hendrix and Keith Moon, or entering the Fashion Café — another new Times Square landmark — in the hope of dining à deux with Christy Turlington.

No, the purpose of the Official All Star Café is not to provide Wayne and Monica and Shaq with somewhere to enjoy a quiet meal. The point is made quite explicit by the first thing you see when you leave the elevator: what the people in charge of it would probably call a merchandise facility. The millions the partners have made from playing contracts, prize-money and endorsements are clearly not enough: now they must have their percentage of Official All Star Café items, all the way from lapel pins at \$3.50 to leather jackets at \$575.

ON THE far side of this wallet-reducing area, the restaurant opens out into a large room with a central bar surrounded by booths, above which there are display cases containing the partners' uniforms, equipment and trophies. From the high ceiling hangs a four-man bobsleigh, a jet-ski and a racing kayak.

I ordered what turned out to be a perfectly decent chicken salad, washed down by a couple of Mexican beers: \$20 plus tip. But for those whose hero worship is really out of control, the menu makes a special feature of the partners' favourite dishes: ravioli for Montana, chicken-fried chicken for Griffey, T-bone steak for Gretzky, spaghetti pomodoro for Agassi, smoked turkey sandwich for O'Neal.

Curiously, Seles is not mentioned in the context. That seems unfair. So on her behalf I nominate the Chocolate Chip Cookie Deluxe, modestly described as "a warm oversized white chocolate chip cookie with white chocolate chip caramel swirl ice cream, whipped cream, chocolate sauce and caramel sauce". At \$5.95, that ought to put some compk back into her first serve.

Back in the days when Times Square was a sexual free-fire zone, Jack Dempsey's Bar offered refuge a couple of blocks north. It disappeared years ago, knocked down to make way for a tourist hotel. But then the great heavy weight never tried to charge anyone \$52 for an embroidered sweatshirt.

Here's one statement that doesn't tell the whole story.

Did you buy your home insurance from your bank or building society? If so, your mortgage statement will probably include details of your home insurance payments as well. What it won't tell you is that your lender could be taking up to 30% commission on that insurance. There is no reason to pay this — most of the time

buildings and contents insurance don't need to be with your mortgage lender. By buying insurance direct from us you can make significant savings and maintain similar high levels of cover. Call now for more details. You can even switch over the phone and join the 750,000 householders who have saved money with Direct Line Insurance.

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Dear Roy
When we spoke on the phone, you suggested that it was my duty, as an "addict and advocate" of Prozac, to start off this correspondence. I'm not sure that I can produce the cheer-leaderly zeal suggested by that phrase. However, I'll give it a go....

Zoe Heller
G2 page 12

Guardian Crossword No 20,538
Set by Rufus

Across

- Falling to win a single game and getting annoyed (8,6)
- Change made by soldiers in battle (7)
- Resolute Old Testament character has a New Testament following (7)
- Part of flag, one shot to pieces (5)
- Chastise wanton whores with it (9)
- Everyone in support of high-level operation shows courage (9)
- Singers of low songs (5)
- A danger out east at this time of the year (5)
- Their guns will be broken, you can safely bet on it (4,5)
- Notice result of successful appeal (5)

Down

- Sounds much to distribute (5)
- Meet and collide (3,4)
- Unusually thin I am getting Vitamin B (7)
- They may be seen racing o'er spire (7,7)
- Stranded up a mountain without a drink (4,4,3,3)
- Though particular, the place is in a mess (7)
- Opposite of a day trip? (9)
- Saucepain's ready for cooking a snipe (3-4)
- It may carry out a service on a summer afternoon (3-4)
- Girl needs two keys to escape (5)
- 7 Buses — or trains? (7)
- They help your way to the bank, providing you have a good balance (6,5)

14 Giving away a salver in person (9)
16 She's seen in an arson attack (7)
17 It contracts to continue one's circulation (7)
18 Sort of desk that heads the list? (4-3)
19 Up in the air amid the dance (2,5)
21 Private lodging provided with little hesitation (5)

Solution tomorrow

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